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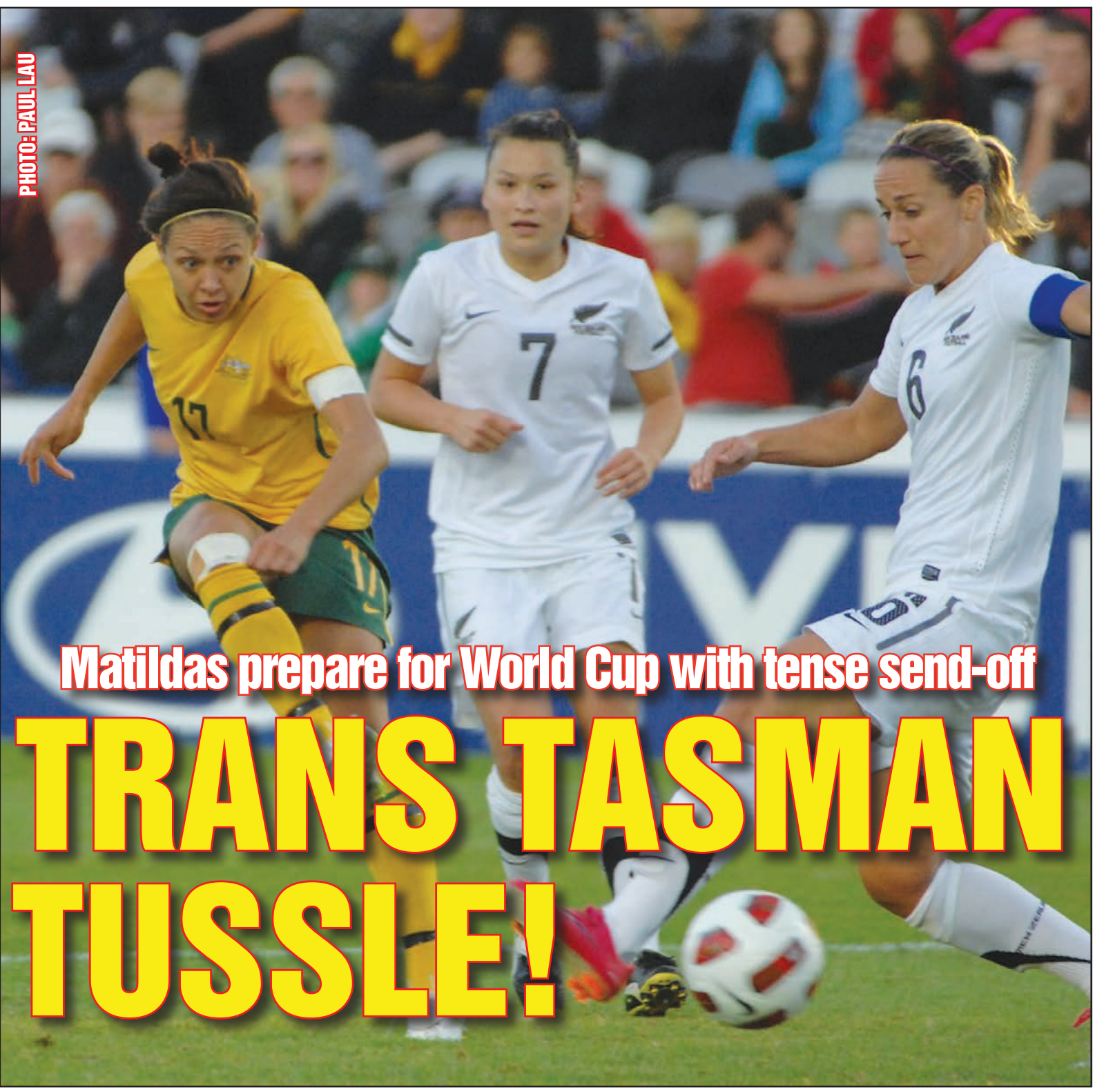
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Matildas prepare for World Cup with tense send-off

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Victory & Muscat draw to a close

By David Manuca

MELBOURNE VICTORY'S ACL campaign has finally been put to rest after they could only manage a 1-1 draw against Jeju United last Wednesday night.

Victory traveled to Korea needing the three points and for Tianjin to defeat Gamba Osaka, but a 2-0 win for Gamba earlier in the night meant neither Victory or Jeju had a chance of making it to the next round.

Melbourne finished the group last on six points, one behind third-placed Jeju and four behind joint leaders Gamba and Tianjin.

Despite crashing out in the group stages Mehmet Durakovic did an astounding job after taking over from Merrick.

No-one would have predicted Melbourne would still be in the hunt for a place in the Round of 16 coming into the last game after losses in their first two games.

Durakovic has staked a real claim to be the full-time boss at the Victory for next season with the caretaker coach hoping his six-week stint at the helm of the club was enough for him to earn the permanent job.

When asked by 442 if he would like to continue his current role, Durakovic replied by saying "I hope so, I really do,".

"In a lot of games we have been very unlucky and it's out of my hands at the moment but the pleasing thing is that the players have responded to my tactics and the way I wanted to play.

"In the short space of time I think we have really done well, we have been unbeaten in four games. Everything now is out of my hands and it's up to the board, I just hope the board can see there has been a lot of positives in the team and the way I want these players to be play."

In what was Kevin Muscat's final game for the Victory and Robbie Kruse's last before departing to Germany, Victory put the ball in the back of the net on six occasions but five of them were ruled offside - two wrongly so.

''I felt the Archie and Danny ones were very close and should have been given. The linesman should have given us the benefit of the doubt. Two goals. It's a huge amount in football.'' Durakovic said post-game.

Eun-Jung Kim put Jeju ahead on 25 minutes before Diogo Ferreira scored a remarkable equalizer right on the hour mark.

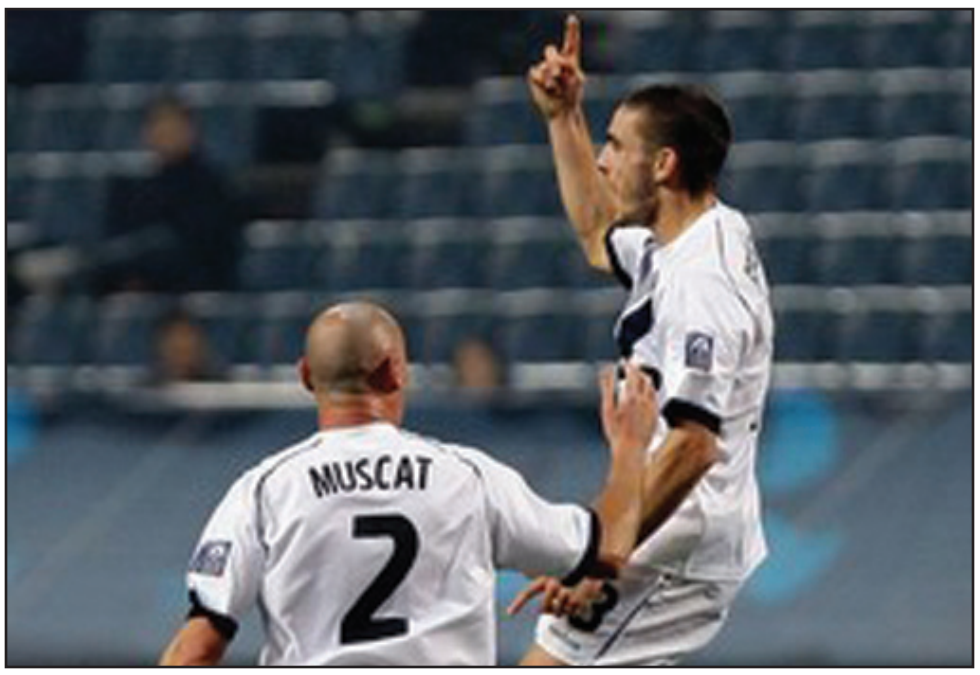
Danny Allsopp who headed the Victory attack put the ball in the back of the net in just the third minute but it was ruled out for offside, with replays showing he was clearly onside.

Allsopp had a fantastic opportunity to give Victory the lead on 21 minutes after Hernandez played him through. The big man outmuscled his defender but his shot was saved by the Jeju goalkeeper Kim Hojun.

Soon after Jeju took the lead when Eun Jung finished off a good move with a neat finish.

Victory showed great character in the second half as they pushed for an equalizing goal. Hernandez had a shot hit the post with the rebound falling to Robbie Kruse but the striker was just offside.

Archie Thompson thought he had scored the equalizer for Melbourne a short while afterward but for the second time in the match the goal was wrongly ruled out for offside.



Diego Ferreira celebrates with Kevin Muscat after scoring a cracker but it was not to be for Victory as they bow out of the ACL and Muscat's career comes to a gallant end.

But the Victory did eventually find themselves back on level terms thanks to an inspirational volley by youngster Diogo Ferreira.

A corner was headed away by the Jeju defence, and Ferreira, who was lingering just outside the box, hit a spectacular volley which left goalkeeper Kim Hojun with no chance.

Melbourne put the ball in the back of the net a further two times afterwards but they were both correctly ruled offside.

Jeju had Ju-nu sent off late in the match for an elbow on young defender Matthew Foschini but Victory couldn't find a winning goal which would have seen them leap-frog Jeju and finish third in the group.

Sydney FC were eliminated the week prior after a 3-1 loss to Suwon Bluewings and their final group stage match finished in a 2-1 loss against Kashima Antlers in Japan.

Matt Jurman gave Sydney a surprise lead on 26 minutes but Yuyu Osako brought Kashima level just after the hour mark before Takuya Nozawa found a winner for Kashima with five minutes remaining.

Victory and Sydney's failure to progress out of the group stage continues Australian sides poor run in the ACL.

Only two sides have ever made it out of the group stages with Adelaide making it to the final in 2008 and the Round of 16 in 2010, while Newcastle Jets made it to the Round of 16 in 2009.

Next years competition will see Brisbane Roar enter the ACL for the first time in their short history whilst Central Coast Mariners will compete for a second time.

The Round of 16 starts next week and will see Gamba Osaka take on their cross town rivals Cerezo Osaka. Korean side Jeonbuk Motors take on Chinese outfit Tianjin Teda, Iran's Sepahan play Uzbekistani side Bunyodkor, Saudi Arabian side Al Ittihad take on another Saudi Arabian side in Al Hilal, Korea's FC Seoul will host Japanese powerhouse Kashima Antlers whilst another South Korea vs Japan clash sees Suwon Bluewings take on Nagoya Grampus.

ACL Details

Group A	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 SEPAHAN (IRN)	6	4	1	1	14	5	9	13
2 AL HILAL (KSA)	6	4	1	1	11	6	5	13
3 AL GHARAFA (QAT)	6	2	1	3	6	7	-1	7
4 AL JAZIRA (UAE)	6	0	1	5	7	20	-13	1

AL JAZIRA (UAE) v SEPAHAN (IRN) 1 – 4
AL HILAL (KSA) v AL GHARAFA (QAT) 2 – 0

Group B	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 AL SADD (QAT)	6	2	4	0	8	6	2	10
2 AL NASSR (KSA)	6	2	2	2	10	7	3	8
3 ESTEGHLAL (IRN)	6	2	2	2	11	10	1	8
4 PAKHTAKOR (UZB)	6	1	2	3	8	14	-6	5

PAKHTAKOR (UZB) v AL SADD (QAT) 1 – 1
ESTEGHLAL (IRN) v AL NASSR (KSA) 2 – 1

Group C	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 AL ITTIHAD (KSA)	6	3	2	1	10	5	5	11
2 BUNYODKOR (UZB)	6	2	3	1	8	6	2	9
3 AL WAHDA (UAE)	6	1	3	2	6	8	-2	6
4 PIROOZI ATH (IRN)	6	1	2	3	6	11	-5	5

AL WAHDA (UAE) v PIROOZI (IRN) 2 – 0
AL ITTIHAD (KSA) v BUNYODKOR (UZB) 1 – 1

Group D	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 ZOBAHAN (IRN)	6	4	1	1	7	3	4	13
2 AL SHABAB (KSA)	6	3	2	1	8	4	4	11
3 EMIRATES (UAE)	6	2	0	4	6	10	-4	6
4 AL RAYYAN (QAT)	6	1	1	4	4	8	-4	4

AL RAYYAN (QAT) v EMIRATES (UAE) 2 – 0
ZOBAHAN (IRN) v AL SHABAB (KSA) 0 – 1

Group E	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 GAMBA OSAKA (JPN)	6	3	1	2	13	7	6	10
2 TIANJIN TEDA (CHN)	6	3	1	2	8	6	2	10
3 JEJU UNITED (KOR)	6	2	1	3	6	10	-4	7
4 MELB VICTORY (AU)	6	1	3	2	7	11	-4	6

GAMBA (JPN) v TIANJIN TEDA (CHN) 2 – 0
JEJU UTD (KOR) v MELB VICTORY (AUS) 1 – 1

Group F	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 FC SEOUL (KOR)	6	3	2	1	9	4	5	11
2 GRAMPUS (JPN)	6	3	1	2	9	6	3	10
3 HANGZHOU (CHN)	6	2	1	3	4	9	-5	7
4 AL AIN (UAE)	6	1	2	3	3	6	-3	5

AL AIN (UAE) v GRAMPUS (JPN) 3 – 1
HANGZHOU (CHN) v FC SEOUL (KOR) 1 – 1

Group G	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 JEONBUK (KOR)	6	5	0	1	14	2	12	15
2 CEREZO OSAKA (JPN)	6	4	0	2	11	4	7	12
3 SHANDONG (CHN)	6	2	1	3	9	8	1	7
4 AREMA MALANG (IDN)	6	0	1	5	2	22	-20	1

JEONBUK (KOR) v AREMA MALANG (IDN) 6 – 0
CEREZO (JPN) v SHANDONG (CHN) 4 – 0

Group H	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 BLUEWINGS (KOR)	6	3	3	0	12	3	9	12
2 KASHIMA (JPN)	6	3	3	0	9	3	6	12
3 SYDNEY FC (AUS)	6	1	2	3	6	11	-5	5
4 SHANGHAI (CHN)	6	0	2	4	3	13	-10	2

SHANGHAI (CHN) v BLUEWINGS (KOR) 0 – 3
KASHIMA (JPN) v SYDNEY FC (AUS) 2 – 1

Round of 16

May 24
Sepahan (Iran) vs Bunyodkor (Uzbekistan)
Al Ittihad (Saudi Arabia) vs Al Hilal (Saudi Arabia)
Gamba Osaka (Japan) vs Cerezo Osaka (Japan)
Jeonbuk Motors (Kor) vs Tianjin Teda (China)

May 25
Al Sadd (Qatar) vs Al Shabab (Saudi Arabia)
Zob Ahan (Iran) vs Al Nassr (Saudi Arabia)
FC Seoul (Korea Republic) vs Kashima (Japan)
Bluewings (Korea Republic) vs Nagoya (Japan)



Corruption at the heart of the world game

By Roy Hay

THE world governing body of football (soccer), the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, to give it its French title, which corresponds with the way its acronym FIFA appears, is in crisis.

Corruption at top and bottom is alleged and no one who has been following the recent history of the game is surprised.

Investigative journalists in the United Kingdom and Australia and other parts of the world have been producing a litany of examples of alleged corrupt voting practices in the decisions to award the hosting of the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2022 one to Qatar.

Now the same and additional points are being advanced by Lord Triesman, the former chair of England's bid for 2018 before the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee of the United Kingdom parliament.

Members of the Executive of FIFA who made the decision including Jack Warner of Trinidad and Tobago, Worawi Makudi of Thailand, Nicolas Leoz, the president of the powerful South American confederation and Ricardo Texeira, the president of the Brazilian federation were named by Triesman.

Two others were named by a member of the Select Committee on the basis of reports in the Sunday Times.

It needs to be remembered that two of the Executive Committee of FIFA, Amos Adamu from Nigeria and Reynald Temarii from Tahiti, had already been stood down before the election having been found to be in breach of FIFA regulations by the body's ethics committee.

In all one-third of the 24 member voting body have either been alleged to have been or already found guilty of impropriety in relation to the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bids.

Nearly all those named have strenuously denied the claims and FIFA has called on its critics to provide evidence which can be examined urgently.

England got two votes in relation to the 2018 bid, despite promises made to among others, Prince William who supported the final presentation of the English bid.

You could put it down to sour grapes that these issues are being raised now in the lead up to FIFA's presidential election on 1 June, when Josef S Blatter will be challenged by Mohamed Bin Hammam of Qatar, who is the president of the Asian confederation of which Australia is a member.



With its reputation tarnished even further Sepp Blatter contemplates how FIFA will deal with the latest set of revelations to beset the 2018 & 2022 World Cup bid.

But curiously England's Football Association has announced that it will vote for Blatter, even though he presided over the voting last December.

At the other end of the scale, allegations and evidence of match fixing are now so widespread, particularly, though not exclusively, in lower level games in Asia, that Blatter has just announced that FIFA will donate 20million Euros to Interpol to help set up a dedicated anti-corruption unit in Singapore.

Australian players who have played in Asian leagues have reported episodes where match fixing occurred and the growth of betting rings has increased the likelihood that matches may be tampered with.

The secretary general of Interpol, Ron Noble, said, 'Asia is a hotbed of betting and match-fixing, but Singapore, as one of the "least corrupt countries on the planet", is an ideal base for the new unit.'

That may provoke a raising of eyebrows in some quarters.

The announcement of the FIFA donation will certainly be seen by some as an attempt to divert attention from the alleged rottenness at the top.

Though the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, has come out in support of the proposition that Australia's World Cup bid was squeaky clean, the perception that some of the people involved in advising and consulting were notorious remains.

Australia got only one vote.

Frank Lowy, the chairman of Football Federation Australia, and one of Australia's richest men, entertained many of the Executive Committee and lobbied hard on behalf of his country's bid.

He has been very careful not to make any public comment about the voting process apart from expressing his surprise at the outcome, but it is perhaps time he added his voice to those calling for a thorough and independent inquiry into the governance of the world game.

After all the Australian government has just announced an inquiry into the governance of the FFA ahead of Australia's hosting of the 2015 Asian championships.

Melbourne Corporates play for World Cup Glory

Last Friday 16 corporate football teams gathered in Albert Park to play for the 2011 International Chambers of Commerce World Cup in Melbourne.

Each team represented a country of choice and even played in national team colours for the 7-a-side tournament that captured the imagination of corporate Melbourne for the day.

Following the round robin group phase of the event the quarter finals produced some exciting games with Hostplus (Italy), Nissan (USA), Checkpoint (Argentina) and Australia (Toyota) all progressing to the Semi Finals.

The final saw Hostplus (Italy) play Nissan (USA) for the much coveted FIFA World Cup replica and after an exciting game it was the Nissan team who kept their nerve in a penalty shootout which decided the World Cup winners.

Nissan team captain Dryden Robertson commented on how his team thoroughly enjoyed the experience "It was great to be part of such a well organised event. Not only did the day assist in building company team moral, it was also satisfying to know that the tournament was also a fund raiser that will assist in the rebuilding of towns affected by the terrible natural disasters in North Queensland. Nissan Motor Company took great pride in not only winning the tournament but also leading the table of all vehicle manufacturers who competed. We look forward to defending our title next year."

Event organisers Football Development Australia were delighted with the day as Director Cormac Begley commented: " We designed the event for players and teams in companies who love their football and understand that while the day is competitive it's also meant to be lots of fun and an opportunity to network and meet fellow football fans from other companies. The inter team camaraderie was excellent throughout the tournament and made it a really enjoyable experience for everyone involved."

The Football Development Australia team was also very impressed with the standard of play from the Melbourne teams Begley also remarked: "Our coaching philosophy at FDA is to try and play football in the right way through good skills, passing and movement off the ball. Holland (Leaseplan), Japan (Japanese Chamber of Commerce), Italy (Hostplus) and the USA (Nissan) played some outstanding football and were fantastic to watch."

FDA Corporate Football Events
www.footballdevelopment.com.au/cwc

Football Development Australia in cooperation with many International Chambers of Commerce gives corporate teams in Sydney and Melbourne the opportunity to represent their company and a country of their choice in the annual International Chambers of Commerce World Cup football tournament.

The event provides a truly unique business networking opportunity for Chambers, members and corporate teams. The winners lift an exact replica of the World Cup trophy following the tournament final.



Above: Winners of the Corporate World Cup, NIssan (USA).



Right:
Denmark v USA

Left:
Spain v Brazil

Below:
Australia v Japan





Sharks to meet South in Cup Derby clash

5th Round Details

South Melbourne (VPL) v Port Melbourne (S1)
FC Bulleen Lions (S1) v Northcote City (VPL)
Hume City (VPL) v Moreland City (S2)
Dandenong City (S2) v Dandenong Thunder (VPL)
Bentleigh Greens (VPL) v Southern Stars (S1)
Heidelberg United (VPL) v Preston Lions (S1)
St Albans Saints (VPL) v Ballarat Red Devils (S2)
Melbourne Knights (VPL) v North Sunshine Eagles (P1)
Whittlesea Zebras (S1) v FC Clifton Hill (S2)
Springvale White Eagles (VPL) v Malvern City (S2) or Fortuna 60 (R)
Sunshine George Cross (S1) v Green Gully Cavaliers (VPL)
Pascoe Vale (S1) v Oakleigh Cannons (VPL)

By Robert Di Fabio

The fourth round of the exhilarating Mirabella Cup competition continued last week with two of the final three fixtures taking place.

The entire representation of the Alanic Victorian Premier League have progressed to the next round of the tournament. Several clubs experienced unproblematic scenarios, while others found the venture a little tougher against their lower ranked opposition. Nevertheless, the cup is really starting to earn its stripes in the heart of Victorian football as the Mirabella Cup ventures on for another week.

There will be a live draw commencing Monday 16 May at 6pm. For full details visit the FFV website and/or follow the official Mirabella Cup Facebook page for live updates throughout the evening.

Review of last week's Mirabella Cup Round 4 fixtures

The penultimate Tuesday night cup tie was played between Doncaster Rovers (State 2) and FC Bullen Lions (State 1) at Anderson Park. On a cold, wet, miserable night- conditions more reminiscent of a crisp European evening, the fixture replicated a competitive, entertaining display of football. Given the close proximity between the two fledging clubs, this mid-week derby was always going to be a spirited exhibition. Doncaster Rovers stepped up to the occasion challenging their superior league opposition, matching them in several departments on the pitch. Although, neither team could break the deadlock, recording a stalemate 0-0 following the initial 90 minutes. With the game going into extra time, both teams were guilty of once again not being prolific in front of goal. After an enthralling 120 minutes of nail-biting football, penalty shoot-outs would decide the outcome. Bullen Lions illustrated their mental strength and character by triumphing 4-2 on penalties. It was a hard pill to swallow for the Rovers, although a proud and passionate display nonetheless.

This week's final Mirabella Cup Round 4 fixture

The final game will showcase Malvern City (State 2) play host to Fortuna 60 (Regional) at Jack Edwards Reserve. Given Malvern's status within Victorian football, it is expected that they ease to victory. Can Fortuna 60 create cup history?

Mirabella Cup Round 5 Draw

As mentioned earlier, the live draw commences from 6pm tonight. Although with only two teams left in each region (one representative from each of the 12 regions will progress to the 6th Round) tonight's live draw will merely see which team has the honour of playing host in the next round.

Arguably the match of the round, the highly anticipated South Melbourne (VPL) and Port Melbourne (State 1) match-up has got many people excited within the Victorian football fraternity. Following an easy victory in their debut game the last round, South Melbourne will face their first competitive ordeal against an outfit fit and firing in State League One. Port Melbourne's form has seen them win their opening five league fixtures while also playing out an entertaining 2-2 last Wednesday with A-League outfit Melbourne Heart in a friendly. A likely return at the summit of Victorian football next year seems imminent for Port Melbourne if their impressive grace of form can continue throughout the current campaign. A lacklustre couple of weeks has hung doubt over South Melbourne's championship credentials. If South continue their unaspiring display of football, an earlier than expected exit from the cup may come into fruition. Nevertheless, an enthralling battle is upon us.

The meeting of the former NSL protégées will unite as Heidelberg United (VPL) and Preston Lions (State 1) face off. Heidelberg United have eclipsed a stunning 14 goals in their last two VPL matches (recording 9-0 and 5-0 wins against Springvale White Eagles and VTC respectively). Meanwhile, Preston Lions are beginning to show some promise following a sluggish start to the season. Heidelberg will enter the clash as deserved favourites given their destructive offensive display and higher league status, although the Lions will be keen to prove a point in this northern derby. An interesting tale awaits.

A further fascinating fixture awaits between the newly promoted St Albans Saints (VPL) - an outfit struggling with confidence and mobility and Ballarat Red Devils (State 2) - whom have played some brilliant football in the cup, recently defeating State One representative Geelong Warriors in an absorbing contest. Given Ballarat's tendency to play well against higher league opposition, the Red Devils will fancy their chances against a vulnerable St Albans. Don't be surprised if the underdog claims bragging rights.

An additional stimulating fixture will take place between former NSL and VPL giants Sunshine George Cross (State 1) - a club who have developed and nurtured exceptional talent in the vein of recently retired Kevin Muscat and defending VPL champions Green Gully Cavaliers- who can bolster the honour of assisting the development of Roddy Vargas. Whilst both outfits are seemingly acquiring slower than expected starts in their respective leagues, both clubs will be seeking redemption. This fixture may well go into extra time, expect a close encounter.

The cup hallucination will continue for the solitary Provisional League outfit as North Sunshine Eagles (Prov 1) take on Victorian powerhouse Melbourne Knights (VPL). Following a remarkable display in the last round- triumphing 2-1 against recently relegated Altona Magic (State 1), the Eagles will be living in wonderland when they face a club in the calibre of the Knights. In a fixture which is expected to be one sided, the Knights should progress with little difficulty. Can the Eagles prove their doubters wrong once again?

The battle which pits top of the VPL table Oakleigh Cannons against counter-part Pascoe Vale (State 1) will embroil a sense of elation and excitement to the fifth round. The Cannons have been playing some spectacular football of late and will front into this fixture with every confidence of proceeding to the next round. On the other hand, Pascoe Vale is a different tale. Struggling for consistency within their game and points in their respective league, a cup tie like this could bring out their best.

The allure of cup football will be present when the Dandenong derby comes into fulfilment. Dandenong City (State 2) will have the ambitious assignment of playing big brothers Dandenong Thunder (VPL) in an encounter which will represent the winner of the southern region. Given their status within the Victorian football pyramid, Thunder will be expected to triumph on this occasion. However, derby showdowns can always bring about surprising results, City will be determined to let their name be known by knocking off their VPL counter-part. Watch this match with anticipation.

In other matches, the City battle between Hume (VPL) and Moreland (State 2) will take place, Southern Stars (VPL) have the task of facing Bentleigh Greens (VPL), Whittleseas Zebras (State 1) will encounter Clifton Hill (State 2) and Springvale White Eagles (VPL) will play the winner of Malvern City (State 2) and Fortuna 60 (Regional).

Arufa Games takes place in Dreamland

By Michal Skrodsky

This week has seen the Arafura Games take place in Darwin and with these Games came a great football tournament.

The Arafura Games takes place every two years and is always held by Darwin, the game has three fundamental principles: emerging champions, sporting neighbours and sharing knowledge. So in that saying you can see that these games are more about up and coming athletes from the near by countries in the Asia-Pacific region but everyone of any age and nationality is allowed to enter. The football tournament had 7 teams split into 2 groups, the winners of each group would play off in the final and 2nd place of each group would meet for bronze. In Group A there was Darwin, Alice Springs, Kupang (capital city of West Timor, Indonesia) and Timor Leste. Group B had Aceh, Macau and Borroloola (a small town of about 700 people (majority indigenous) over 1000km east of Darwin). Last Arafura Games in 2007 it was Timor Leste who took home the gold after a 3-0 win over Aceh in the final.

The Opening Ceremony was held on Saturday the 7th of May and Sunday the football kicked-off with some huge games. The first game was between Aceh and Macau, a crunch game early on seeing as both teams would probably beat Borroloola hence this match was to see who will make the gold medal game, and the game ended in a 1-1 stalemate.

Later on Darwin took on Alice Springs, this match had a lot of local attention, there were reports in the paper and even on commercial radio there were adverts for the game. Darwin were too strong for their fellow Northern Territorians and won 4-0. The third match of the day saw two other local rivals go head to head, Kupang took on defending champions Timor Leste, but it was Kupang who took the win with a 3-0 scoreline.

The next day saw a the hosts, Darwin, get over Timor Leste 3-2 and end their title defence after only 2 games. In the second game of the day Kupang got over Alice Springs 3-2. On Tuesday there was only one match scheduled, Macau vs Borroloola. Needless to say Macau were hot favourites but unthinkably it was Borroloola who opened the scoring early on. Macau then mananged to equalise minutes later and from the it was a slaughter, at the final whistle it was 11-1 in favour of Macau. Wednesday saw the last round of Group A, Timor Leste defeated Alice Springs 3-2 but all eyes were on the second match between Darwin and Kupang as this was to see who would top the group and play in the Gold Medal Match. After a thrilling 90 minutes the hosts scrapped over the line with a 3-2 scoreline.



Medal prestentation at the Arufa Games with Darwin, Aceh & Macau

Thursday saw the final group game of Group B, Borroloola vs Aceh. The team from Indonesia needed to win by 11 goals or more to take top spot off Macau, and believe it or not they got there in a canter and won 19-1. So it was to be a Darwin vs Aceh final but before that match on Friday Macau took on Kupang for bronze. The match was very tight and no goals were scored in regulation time or extra time and went to penalties, Macau coming up on top.

The final was played on Saturday (the last day of the games) at 1pm local time in the heat of the day, this was so as to make sure players and fans would have time to go home, have a shower and get to the Closing Ceremony. The game was played at Larrakia Park, where all games were played, in front of about 1500 fans with about a 50/50 split between Aceh and Darwin fans.

The game was a contrast of styles, the Aceh team all came from the local Aceh league and tried to play a very South American style. The Acehnese were short, quick and nimble and very good technically but sometimes lacked in decision making and execution. In contrast the Darwin players were quiet big (some around the waist too!), physical and played a very direct game. Both teams looked like majority players were under 21 and the game was probably played at a State 2 level at best. Aceh were all over Darwin in the first half and the Acehnese fans were quiet loud and boisterous greating a great atmosphere.

Calls came from the Darwin fans to drag their number 10 who was having a poor game, this upset the Darwin coach who turned around and unloaded some abuse at his own fans!

This reporter later over heard some fans chatting and according to them the number 10 is actually the coach's son!

Around the 30th minute mark the Darwin coach did take off the 10 to some loud sarcastic cheering from the home fans. This did change the match, Darwin were much more attacking and created some chances.

The game looked like going to extra time but at the 70th minute mark the game exploded with a Darwin long shot smashing into the cross bar and a minute later Aceh had a shot brilliantly saved by the Darwin keeper. Then in the 80th minute the Aceh fans were sent into reaptures when they managed to find the back of the net. A diagonal ball was played into the box which was brilliantly left by the main striker as the he knew there was a man all alone behind him, then his ball across the face of goal was tapped in by his team mate.

Darwin looked for a late equaliser and were given a freekick on the egde of the box in injury time. The whole stadium was silent as the Darwin custodian lined up the freekick, he hit the ball and the Darwin fans went up but the ball agonisingly missed.

The full time whistle was blown from the following goal kick and the Acehnese went wild. That ended a great action packed Arafura Games football tournament which was well attended all week long. Congratulations to all teams participating and Football NT for a well organised tournament.

For more info on the games visit: http://www.arafuragames.nt.gov.au/

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TSIGAN'S TSIGAR

Tsigan Rolls One Up from the Central Coast!

With Mike Lilikakis



The Germans perfected steel back in the early 1900's. How awesome was that?
Now that I have your attention, shut up and stop talking Krupp. F.A Cup? Are you for real? That was probably the most boring game I ever saw. I had such expectation and wonder from two teams which accumatively are worth nearly a billion ponds. Yep Ponds, not pounds. As far as I'm concerned they belong in the swamp. What a rip. I stayed up to listen to Les 'Godfather' Murray and Fozzie the Bear yap on about THIS GAME? Och aman, iI definately picked the wrong week to stop



sniffing glue.

And while we're at it, guess the foot's on the other hand now, isn't it? And what about an airplane? Oh sure, its a big, pretty, white hunk of metal with red or blue stripes, curtains in the window and a few wheels and a couple of wings, but that's not important right now...
did ya ever hang around a gymnasium?...do you like movies about gladiators?...have you ever been in a Turkish prison? have you ever seen a grown man naked? These are the haaaard questions you really should be asking yourself, mate. For example, how do you make a Vennetian blind? Stick your fingers in his eyes...
What's that? You tried your best and you failed miserably? It's obvious then, isn't it? The lesson is 'never try'. As Yoda said, DO or Do not... NEVER TRY!...You were married by a judge?... well, good for you. You should have asked for a jury. By all means marry; if you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher...or a politician.

When I stepped down from totalitarian rule over my empire, I was asked why I gave away all my assets, properties, cash and investments. It's simple mate. The best thing about being poor is that when you are seventy your children will not have declared you legally insane in order to gain control of your estate. LEGALLY, that is. Always keep 'em guessing I say. Shotgun, porch, spitoon, rocking chair and Granny Pucket. Like I told the last journo, "Ask me no questions, and I'll tell you no lies." Socrates once said, "Children nowadays are tyrants. They contradict their parents, gobble their food, and tyrannise their teachers." And that was 2,500 years ago. Not much has changed, aye? Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society... well, unless you're Richard Brand. I was asked the other day what I thought of critics. Critics are like eunuchs in a harem; they know how it's done, they've seen it done every day, but they're unable to do it themselves. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment...

But don't be fooled, pleb. My lack of education is more than compensated for by my keenly developed moral bankruptcy. You see, once upon a thyme and oregano I made an important discovery…that alcohol, taken in sufficient quantities, produces all the effects of intoxication. Then, I started to feel sorry for people who didn't drink. When they woke up in the morning that's as good as they're going to feel all day...it made me realise, that I should exercise extreme self-control. I never drunk anything stronger than gin before breakfast. I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me....I think. But then again, I can't think. What did you say? Who are you? How did you get my number? No, I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.....No, I have never taken any exercise, except sleeping and resting....No, I have nothing to declare except my genius. WHAT? No mate, I love being married. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life....
One thing I have learnt though, is that here's no such thing as a soul. It's just something they made up to scare kids, like the boogeyman or Michael Jackson.

AND NOW...HERE's the unparalleled, Ms. Claudia Cortizo;
"Now that the Royal Wedding is over, I wonder what to make of this mass interest in the UK Monarchy and the need for money to maintain their lifestyle seems insatiable.
How many people truly understand what the implications are for continuing the monarchy into this new century and beyond. It's estimated that the Royal family cost Britain 58.2 Million $Au in 2010. When you think that this money supports the lifestyle of a small family one wonders how long this unsustainable ideology can last in today's world of struggling economies,inflation and poverty. 800 servants in Buckingham Palace alone. I wonder why we should even care about their lives and sit like voyeurs in front of our tv screens waqtching their lives unfold? I think as Australians the feelings are still mixed about the Royal entourage. Many where happy when we pulled down Elizabeth's portrait from our school cafeterias but there she sits on our coins, her eternal profile never looking at us in the eye. The queen has a substantial-portfolio of international and British investment companies which generates an enormous amount of profits for her. This leads me to pose the next question and that is "How many of these companies are ethical?" Some would argue that pillage and slavery are still part of the royal families way of life. International companies, such as British Gas, change their names to say "Queensland Gas Company' or Q.G.C. and bring their corrupt destructive practises to this commonwealth and exploit our people and our land. I find the lies, misinformation and political backhanding to be scandalous but the reality is that at the end of day its happening because our politicians have unanimously supported this corrupt exploitation and until we tell them no...it's all there for their taking."



Well plebs, that's it for another week. I have more on my plate than the Sizzler's Buffet could possible allow me to have in a single sitting. Remember to forget, that in reality, the ideal form of government is democracy tempered with assassination.The light at the end of the tunnel is just the light of an oncoming train. The male is a domestic animal which, if treated with firmness and kindness, can be trained to do most things. WOOF! The more I see of football supporters dressed in black and white, the more I like dogs. The more I see of the moneyed classes, the more I understand the guillotine. The minute that you read something that you can't understand, you can almost be sure it was drawn up by a lawyer and the only difference between doctors and lawyers is that lawyers merely rob you, whereas doctors rob you and kill you, too....AND DON'T GET ME STARTED ON DENTISTS!

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Viva Espana



Pepe Lopez

Ole! Barcelona crowned Campeones of Espana





Barcelona celebrates winning an enthralling La Liga title race thanks to an away draw with Levante midweek.

BARCELONA claimed their 21st (in total) and their 3rd successive Spanish La Liga title with 1-all draw away to Levante UD. The Spanish Champions, fielded a close to full strength team, with only noticable absentees being Carles Puyol in defense, and Andres Iniesta in midfield. The pair have been on-again off-again injury casualties for Barcelona this season, and no doubt will be well rested prior to the Uefa Champions League Final against Manchester United in two weeks time.

Mali International midfielder Seydou Keita put Barcelona into a 28th minute lead with a perfectly directed headed goal at the far top corner, giving Levante's Uruguayan goalkeeper Gustavo Manua no chance in goal. Keita finished off a move set up by Barca and Spanish midfielder Xavi Hernandez, who accurately chipped the ball into Keita's direction from long range.

Just as it seemed Barcelona would kick back into cruise control, Levante's Ecuadorian International Felipe Caicedo, currently on-loan from Manchester City, capitalised on the successive schoolboy errors by Barcelona's defender Gerrard Piquet and goalkeeper Victor Valdes. First off Piquet had a fresh air clearance of a ball in no apparent danger followed up by Valdes' flash of stupidity, who in the penalty area seemingly forgot he was a goalkeeper, trying to control the stray ball instead of catching it. Caicedo easily robbed Valdes of the ball and slotted it into the empty Barcelona goal. The look on Barcelona's Coach Pep Guardiola's face, was clearly not a look of approval, and with competition for places leading into the Champions League Final, former Manchester United defender Gerard Pique could be at risk of the chop. Pique has made his own headlines of late, with a celebrity romantic match-up with World Famous Pop Singer Shakira, not the sort of distraction Guardiola will welcome.

Much to be expected, Barcelona dominated possession by a factor of 78 to 22 at the fulltime whistle and had most of the second half chances, but simply could not finish off Levante. Widely regarded as the best player in the world, Lionel Messi, sprung to life in the second half, finding space around the outside of the Levante penalty box, twice firing just wide of the Levante goal, and once hitting the post. Messi's less than fortunate luck in hitting the target, will probably allow Real Madrid's Ronaldo to claim the La Liga "Pichichi" (top goal scorer award - named after Athletic Bilbao player, Rafael Moreno "Pichichi").

Ronaldo scored a hattrick (his 7th goal in 2 games) in his side's 4-0 win over struggling Getafe. Ronaldo has 36 La Liga goals this season, Messi has 31.

After the match, Lionel Messi had the following to say; "I'm very happy because it's been a very tough title. It's taken a lot of hard work to be champions and more so against a great rival like Real Madrid. Now we have to enjoy it..."

La Liga Midweek Results;

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2011
Almeria 0-0 Villarreal
Levante 1-1 Barcelona
Real Sociedad 2-1 Real Zaragoza
Espanyol 2-2 Valencia
Hercules 2-2 Mallorca
Osasuna 3-2 Sevilla FC

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2011
Deportivo LC 2-1 Athletic Bilbao
Málaga 2-0 Sporting Gijon
R Santander 2-1 Atlético Madrid
Real Madrid 4-0 Getafe

La Liga

	P	GD	Pts
1 Barcelona	36	72	92
2 Real Madrid	36	60	86
3 Valencia	36	18	67
4 Villarreal	36	13	62
5 Athletic Bilbao	36	3	54
6 Sevilla	36	-2	52
7 Atletico Madrid	36	7	52
8 Espanyol	36	-7	49
9 Racing	36	-13	46
10 Malaga	36	-12	45
11 Mallorca	36	-12	44
12 Levante	36	-10	44
13 Real Sociedad	36	-15	44
14 Osasuna	36	0	44
15 Sporting Gijon	36	-8	43
16 Deportivo	36	-14	42
17 Getafe	36	-13	40
18 Real Zaragoza	36	-15	39
19 Hercules	36	-23	34
20 Almeria	36	-29	27

SHORT PASSES

SFC strengthens defensive stocks with addition of Jamie Coyne
Sydney FC has further strengthened its defensive stocks with the signing of defender Jamie Coyne for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 Hyundai A-League seasons.
The addition of the 100-plus A-League capped Coyne follows the acquisition of Socceroos central defender Michael Beauchamp by the Sky Blues two weeks ago.

Scottish football giants to play Perth Glory FC
Perth Glory Football Club is excited to announce it will play a pre-season friendly against Scottish Football League giants Celtic FC at NIB Stadium on Saturday 9 July 2011, subject to FFA sanction.

Mariners create links with hummel
Central Coast Mariners and hummel Australia confirm that the Denmark-based sports clothing manufacturer will provide the club's apparel, including playing strips, for the next two seasons.

Phoenix Sign Lucas Pantelis
Wellington Phoenix head coach Ricki Herbert confirmed that the club had secured the services of Adelaide United midfielder Lucas Pantelis for the coming season.
Pantelis, 29, has signed a two-year contract and will arrive in Wellington next month, Herbert said he was delighted to sign a player who has made 101 A-League appearances for Adelaide United.

Balkan Wrap



Alex Milic

Yugoslav football was once a great art, with fantastic matches, excellent players, well respected managers and fans which were once considered some of the best in the world. Almost every game was watched without an empty seat in the stands, to the extent that some fans had to sneak in.

Since the break up of Yugoslavia and the fall of communism, it's nothing more than a game in which certain people dictate the outcome. In Serbia it all began when Red Star Belgrade and all the other clubs in the country were not allowed to participate in European competitions due to the sanctions imposed on the nation. In 1997 a club called Obilic managed to win the Yugoslav League. The club were rank outsiders and played in the lower leagues of Serbian football only a few years earlier but it was also the club owned by Zeljko Raznatovic 'Arkan' a well known criminal in the Balkans. Arkan invested his dirty money into the club and pressured players to sign for Obilic, he also pressured officials to give his side an advantage in league matches.

Arkan was just the start of what was to come in Serbian football. In recent years the quality of football has fallen to a degree that most people would rather watch a Mexican 'telenovela' then go to the stands to support their team.

The Serbian FA stands behind the fall of the game in Serbia and should take full responsibility for the way they have hurt this beautiful game in a region known for its passionate support for sport. The country's national governing body has been accused of bribing players and officials into match fixing. In the last few months former Yugoslav national team players Savo Milosevic and Boban Dmitrovic accused the federation of corruption and match fixing.

"I have previously been approached by Serbian FA officials to fix a match in favour of Partizan." Former Borac Cacak and Yugoslav International Boban Dmitrovic said with intent to prove the accusations.

Savo Milosevic is the record holder for most matches played for Serbia and is second on the all time best national team goal scorer list. Since retiring he has looked to establish himself as a football administrator and challenged Partizan officials for the Presidential race which he lost. He has since been accused of targeting the club and the FA.

"As a young player I didn't feel any pressure and no one asked for my services. Today it's impossible to fool me in believing the matches in Serbia are not fixed, I see everything on the pitch! Europe sees this and they have given us a clear signal. Not even one Betting agency has the Serbian League on its list," Milosevic said to Blic newspaper.

Milosevic has subsequently been sued by the Serbian FA for his accusations and the court proceedings will be under way soon.

The Serbian FA President

Tomislav Karadzic is the President of the Serbian FA, he is a Serbian businessman that has been involved in football for what seems like an eternity.

He was even the President of FK Partizan a few years ago before becoming the Serbian FA President. Karadzic is a hated figure in Serbia by all who love sport and strive to improve the state of Serbian football. Since being the President, he's sacked Radomir Antic for no apparent reason. He says it's because the national side failed to beat Slovenia in Euro 2012 Qualifying and because of the poor World Cup campaign but the real reason is financial – and Antic's intelligence. Antic had signed a new contract just before the World Cup in which his payments would be doubled following the World Cup. Serbia failed to progress past the Group Stages in South Africa and because of that a lot of money Karadzic thought his Federation would receive for passage into the knockout stages was lost. Karadzic started a campaign against Antic and did his uttermost to get the well respected internationally known manager sacked. He even offered Antic a new contract in which he would receive a 50% pay cut. Antic accepted and was then sacked following the draw to Slovenia.



Main pic: Buturovic. Right: Tomislav Karadzic

Karadzic appointed a new manager and of course the new manager was going to be a cheap solution. The Serbian FA is not running Serbian football the way most federations are meant to be. They officials in the Serbian FA lead by Karadzic are all old men who have been involved in the business side of football in Serbia for decades and in that time they have done nothing to raise the level of performance and bring fans to stadiums, they have in fact done the complete opposite as long as they get their share of the money.

Only recently Milovan Djoric lead the Serbia U17s to a disappointing last place at the Euro U17 Championships which were held in Serbia. Djoric has been a member of the Serbian FA for decades and his last job as a manager was in 2001 when he took charge of the Yugoslav national team and managed to lose at home to Russia and draw at home to Slovenia which cost the team a spot in the 2002 World Cup. What has Djoric done to be manager of the U17s? After Serbia's exit in the tournament Djoric blamed the players for their poor performances and asked of the clubs they play for to not include them in the remaining matches of the season. Is this professional behaviour for a manager of a youth side? A manager which should motivate his players in these early years of development.

Serbian Cup Final Controversy

The Serbian Cup Final was a great example of how the FA is ruining the sport in the country.

Vojvodina, a great traditional and one of the oldest clubs in the country, took on FK Partizan – a club that has won three consecutive League titles (mainly thanks to refereeing decisions in which rival clubs have been cheated and Partizan have been helped to a large extent). Vojvodina beat Partizan in the last three matches they played, with Partizan failing to score. The referee was Mr. Veselinovic (apparently the best ref in the nation) who took charge of three matches in the league which featured Partizan and, of course, they won all three. He also took charge of three matches with Vojvodina in which they lost all three! With the scores at 1:1 Veselinovic awarded Partizan a penalty with a very controversial decision as it was apparent to all that Prince Tagoe dived. Partizan then scored and took the lead once again. A few minutes later Vojvodina were denied an equaliser in which Veselinovic interpreted a foul made by the goalscorer, whose shirt was in fact being pulled by a Partizan player.

To add salt to the fresh wound, only moments later a certain penalty was not given to Vojvodina. This sparked an outcry of fury by the Vojvodina players and staff. The match was in disarray and the Vojvodina players started walking off the pitch, most of them towards their fans and asked for their advice if they should continue the match. Amongst the fans was Vojvodina President the controversial Ratko Buturovic a Novi Sad businessman who has transformed Vojvodina into a competitive outfit since taking over. He's spent a lot of time in restructuring the club and has brought in some excellent players.

"What a bad day! The referee had bad intentions and that's not coincidental! When everything that happened, happened I saw the revolt on the players, who didn't know whether to continue playing or to go to the change rooms and cry, I intended to get in contact with them but Veselinovic blew for full time instantly." A furious Ratko Buturovic said following the match.

Partizan was presented with the Cup – a Cup which was won shamefully but that doesn't seem to bother them or their fans. Serbian football died a little more following these incidents and one has to ask when will it ever change? What must be done? Will Serbian football ever be as good and clean as it was?

The only thing you can do is look back at the golden moments this nation has seen in the beautiful game of football and hope this nightmare ends sooner than later.

A FACE IN THE CROWD



Win yourself a Goal! Weekly subscription by spotting yourself in the crowd!

All you need to do to claim your prize is send us a message on our GW Facebook page and tell us if that's you circled in the picture - it's that easy!

The Melbourne Knights recently defeated Keilor Park in a mid-week Mirabella Cup match. Melinda Cimera was on hand to capture the action that chilly night and took a picture of the famous Somers Street scoreboard trumpeting the triumph.

If that's you in circled in the picture above, send us a message on our Facebook page or drop us an email at news@goalweekly.com so you can win your prize.

You've got until noon this Friday to claim your prize. Good luck!

IN OFF THE POST

mailbag@goalweekly.com

Got something to say? Why don't you share it with the rest of the football community and get it off your chest. Every letter published wins a GW prize.

Dear GW,

I buy your newspaper every week and I am a retired referee (1970-1986). I became a ref after coming to this country from north west England. I played the game back home, and my late father played for Scotland schoolboys. The reason I am writing is I because I read Craig MacKenzie's report on page 3 regarding the Dandenong Thunder farce of a couple of weeks ago.

I ask the question, what have the players and coach done to deserve the points deduction? It's a setback for all of them, and it should be the club officials who should be kicked out of the club instead.

All referees make mistakes, but no one should abuse them in that manner.

I can tell you a story from my time in the game. Back in the 1970s my son John Gardner, who is now 52 years old, was a junior referee and was in charge of an Under 13s cup semi final at Dendy park, Brighton. If I remember right it was between Box Hill and Karingal. The official linesman who was the son of the late referee's chairman, Mr Bob Randall, the linesman had a hard job as he was getting abused by one Karingal supporter, who turned out to be the father of a Karingal player.

At half-time he had a go at the linesman and my son as they walked off the pitch, and headbutted my son. My son was only 15 years old at the time, and even though his nose bled, still managed to finish the game.

The father took off in his car but someone got his licence plate number and on advice from Bob Randall we took the guy to court after the police arrested him in his home.

The court case was at Moorabbin and he was found guilty and fined $300 and told to keep away from soccer for the rest of the season. But the Karingal club went a step further and banned the father for life from the club.

In my opinion, that's what Dandenong Thunder should do with the two idiots that have caused all this recent trouble. The game and the club doesn't need people like them around and should realise that they are doing the club more harm than good.

So after writing all that, I do wish the Dandenong Thunder all the best for the rest of the season.

Keep up the good work in GW.

All the best,
D.Gardner
Hampton Park



BOO'S WORLD

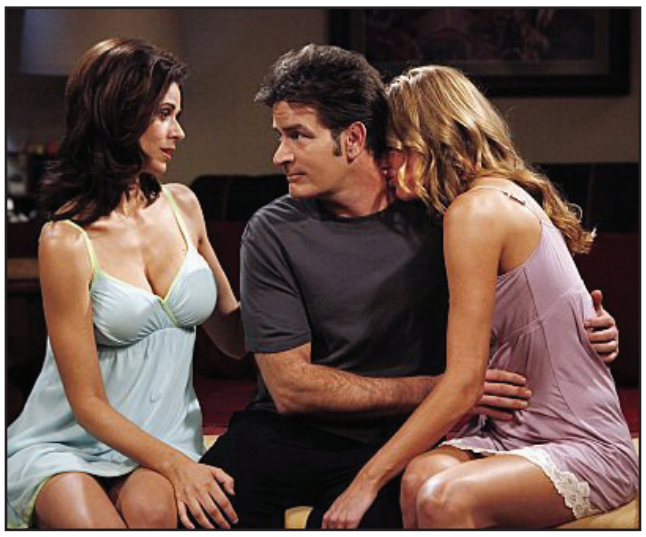
With Mark Boric

Call me old fashioned, but it just isn't right that there are English Premier League matches on F.A. Cup Final day. Disappointing that the Cup has lost so much of it's lustre that it is no longer a stand alone matchday. Younger generations may not know, but before SBS and pay tv and internet streaming, the FA Cup Final was the one football match shown live in this country every year. In the 1950's the films of the Cup Finals would eventually arrive on our shores to be viewed in special screenings for the local football community. It's sad to see it lose it's significance so much.

As it was, it was a League and Cup Double for Manchester on the day, with United winning the League and City taking the Cup. City have finally gotten some silverware, but at price which could have seen them buy more than a few Stanley Rogers cutlery sets.

Did Craig Foster really tweet "Yaya you have saved the football world" during the game on Saturday night? Sidchrome don't make a bigger tool that this guy.

0-6, 1-3, 0-6 and 0-5. The last four scorelines of VTC Football games in the AVPL. For them, the transfer window can only really weaken rather than improve the squad so what lies ahead in the second half of the season? Their presence has made a mockery of the competition, it just remains to be seen as to how much of a joke the situation becomes.



Victory could do worse...

I hope no one was spitting mad when the lights went out at George Andrews Reserve on Saturday night. With Dandenong Thunder's appeal against the FFV's four games behind closed doors punishment still taking place, some people may have been in the dark as to whether the game would be open to the public. If they turned up, after twenty minutes they were literally in the dark.

What do the regulations say about abandoned games this year? There are that many different precedents over the years it gets very confusing. Hopefully the game is replayed well before the end of the season to avoid anyone having to play three times in a week before the Finals. It looks like being a very wet and cold winter, so expect a few abandonments/postponements due to waterlogged pitches as well as the obligatory floodlight failures.

Now that Melbourne Victory are out of the Asian Champions League it is time for them to select a new coach. They will have a bit of work to do to catch up to the likes of Brisbane Roar next season, and need to start soon. It's taken longer to find a replacement for Ernie Merrick than it took to replace Charlie Sheen on Two and a Half Men.



THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas

Another interesting week in Football where...

The Scorer filled his tank up and ventured down the South East, where the wicket of Springvale White Eagles Coach, Zlatko Mihajlovic fell.

The White Eagles conceded 15 goals in their last 2 matches, and the 9 unanswered copped at Heidelberg last weekend certainly did Zlatko's cause no favours.

Over to the UK we go, where Sir Alex added another trophy to the cabinet.

Manchester was abuzz with the Shirley Valentines that live their treating their Other Halves to Steak and Chips, a delicacy usually served on a Tuesday.

Next stop for Man U is their Champions League Final, many are hoping they secure a Happy End, more though are wishing they don't, especially Liverpool supporters.

And at the other side of Manchester, rivals Manchester City picked up their first trophy in 35 years, and the Mr Sheen came out to clean the trophy cabinet, as well as a locksmith being called in to actually open the door, as the key hasn't been seen for years.

I did try and watch their encounter against Stoke, but I found this match about as interesting as watching Jillian Gillard's performances in Parliament.

Speaking of Liverpool, Kenny Dalglish has signed a 3 Year deal, a move welcomed by their fans, after he turned this Season around for them.

Over to the Thunderdome we go, where it was Lights Out, Nobody's Home, in their match against the Melbourne Knights, as brightness turned to darkness in the 20th minute.

We now await the House Of Darebin's ruling as to when this match will be replayed, however this early finish gave the Opa Opa Thunder Boys the opportunity to visit their night time venues a touch earlier.

Melbourne Victory caretaker Coach Mehmet Durakovic is hoping that his recent efforts in the Asia Cup will be enough to secure him the gig for next Season.

Applications for this job have come from near and far, and we now await the Board's decision.

South Melbourne are certainly doing it tough this year in the VPL, with recent results being less than favourable.

With the Transfer Window Roller Door opening up this week, word around the traps is that they are spending big to try and turn this around, with the winners being the Pop Stars who are hearing the 'Kching' sound loudly.

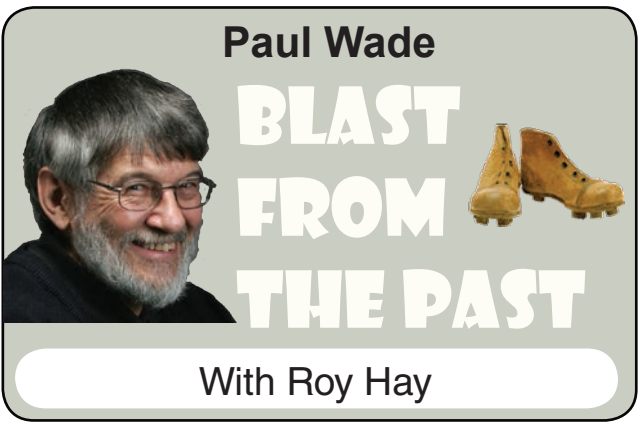
Upon reflection, I must have been born in the wrong era, as back in my day, anyone that picked up $20 per game was laughing all the way to the Local Over 28's.

Then again, certain vices such as J Walker and W N Field certainly did not help my cause.

Until next week.

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Victoria's Captain Socceroo

IF ever a player got the utmost out of his talents that was Paul Wade. He is the third most capped Socceroo behind Mark Schwarzer and Alex Tobin and captained the national team for six years. He had or developed the most astounding aerobic capacity and drove the midfield of club and national sides like the Energizer bunny. He allowed a generation of highly talented midfielders to flourish because he did the grunt work for them. Micky Petersen, Oscar Crino and Con Boutsianis were among those who benefited from Wade's selfless running, tackling and short passing. He could always be a threat with his box-to-box runs and shots and he was lethal in the air in defence or attack.

Paul Wade was born on 20 March 1962 in Altrincham, Cheshire. His parents were from Barnsley in Yorkshire, but they moved to Lancashire when Paul was young and he grew up supporting Liverpool. His parents emigrated and he came to Dandenong in Victoria in October 1973, where he joined Dandenong City Under-11s. Then moved to Doveton juniors and went to Slavia in 1978. He made his senior debut under Harry Chalkitis in 1979. In 1981 Wade transferred to Croydon City where Jimmy Rooney was playing. The Socceroo star put a stop to Wade's drinking habits. He took Wade to Green Gully when he coached there in 1984. Wade won the Soccer Action NSL player of the year award and then moved to Brunswick United Juventus in 1985 finishing second in the Southern Division. Wade scored the winning goals in both the semi-final against South Melbourne and in the final against Preston to win the Divisional title. Then Juventus won the two-leg inter-conference final to become Australian champion.

Paul Wade was selected for Australia B by Frank Arok in 1985 and gained his first full cap against Czechoslovakia in the 3-match series in 1986. He helped Australia qualify for the Olympic Games in Seoul and reach the final of the Bicentennial Cup against Brazil in 1988. By then Wade was at South Melbourne, having joined in 1987. He was awarded the NSL Player of the Year title in 1988. He helped South Melbourne to become Australian champions in 1991 and league leader at the end of the home and away games in 1993. After eight years at South Melbourne he was effectively discarded by the club and then forced to go on loan to Heidelberg United. He returned to South Melbourne in 1994-95, then transferred to Canberra Cosmos for two years. In all he played 345 games in the NSL and scored 53 goals.

He had one of his finest hours in the latter stages of the qualification for the World Cup in the United States to be held in 1994. In the final qualifying match, Australia had to play Argentina over two legs, the first of which was to be played at home at the Sydney Football Stadium. Diego Maradona, who had been out of the game for some time, was prevailed upon to return to help Argentina get to the finals. So Paul Wade was given the job of marking one of the greatest players the world has ever seen and doing so without kicking the icon off the park. He did so very effectively and it really had nothing to do with his efforts, that the aging magician was able to conjure up a goal for Abel Balbo, with a pin-point cross. Though Australia got on terms and then held Argentina goal-less in the away leg for an hour, a cruel deflection resulted the only goal of the game to the home team. So Paul never got the chance to play on the greatest stage of all.

Paul Wade played 115 games in all for Australia, and scored 11 goals. He played in 84 A internationals. He took part in qualification campaigns for 1990 and 1994 World Cups. He was captain of the Socceroos for six years at a particularly difficult time, when half the team was playing in Europe and earning huge sums of money and the other half was in the National Soccer League on much, much less. The strains within the camp were considerable, and it is unlikely that anyone could have held this group together better than Wade. Reading his autobiography all you will learn is about his mistakes and his naivety, but he did a marvelous job. I remember after a friendly match against England in 1991, the press conference was held in a tent outside the ground. The rest of the team was showered and dressed and in the bus waiting to go back to their hotel, and Paul Wade was still in his gear, his body wracked with cramp, continuing to answer the questions of the English and Australian media until everyone had finished.

He received the Order of Australia Medal in January 1995 for his services to the game and service to youth and community through the Anti-Smoking and Drug Offensive campaigns. He became media commentator and journalist and promoter of the game at all levels. He and Jane Oakley were the public faces of VSF promotional campaigns for several years. He battled epilepsy and now is inspirational speaker and runs a Skills for Life program.

His autobiography, Paul Wade, Captain Socceroo, co-written with Kyle Patterson, is fearsomely honest, perhaps too honest for his own good. He has been an ornament to the game throughout his career, setting an example of team, club and country before self that has set the standard for all his successors.



Paul Wade marks Robbie Dunn in a 1987 National Soccer League match between South Melbourne and Melbourne Knights.. Ian Wallace (former Notts Forest and Coventry million pound man) and Bobby Russell watch from afar. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection Deakin University Library.
Inset: A young Paul Wade playing for Croydon City Arrows with Ian Dobson in the background. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection Deakin University Library.

Latin Wrap



Francis Fields

Diego flies for Emirates job



Diego Maradona, the former Argentina coach has signed in the Emirates league for Al Wasl of Dubai on a two-year deal.



Neymar held back by an Once Caldas marker as he waved his magic skills away last week in Manizales. Santos got a great first leg result in the only Brazilian hope for this year's Libertadores.

Before going any further about the Boca-River derby played on the weekend, Diego Armando Maradona was caught sleeping on a private jet by an amateur snapper.

The Argentinean football great played a part of an invitation in Chechnya to inaugurate the opening of a new stadium and scored a superb free-kick.

Not that it should be newsworthy however, just to go down and see the 'human' side that a famous icon or celebrity has. He is just like you the reader, and I, the writer. That's right amigos.

A bit of change also in the format to this page. Just to spice things up a bit. Remember, follow us online for scores and updates on matches across the Americas especially with the Copa Santander Libertadores well into the quarter-final stages.

There's also news of a different kind. It's to do with the Middle East. Now little may that have to do with Latin America one thinks. Wrong. See, in Santiago de Chile for decades, club Palestino plays in the first division of professional football. This is just like in other countries with ethnic ties. It is run by the exiled Palestinian community.

Day to day, the club continues to stretch its football ties with the Palestinian Football Federation. Now the Santiago-based club from the southern suburb of La Cisterna will be participating in Bethlehem in an invitational tournament that will also count with the presence of FIFA president, Sepp Blatter.

The Palestine tournament commemorates 63 years since the Day of Catastrophe when thousands of Palestinians were displaced from their homelands.

As we print, the Chilean side has flown with four first division players and the rest from its youth setup over in Bethlehem and are drawn in group A against local side Al Daheria. Today Monday, Palestino face Nania of Ghana and on Wednesday against Jordanian club Al Jazeera.

A superb initiative in stretching football ties in a tournament that means a lot to the Palestinian people. As Palestino represent not just Chile but Latin America as a whole, the tournament also has teams from Mauritania, South Africa, Syria, Ghana, Senegal, Hungary amongst others and played across the nation in Jerusalem, Hebron, Bethlehem, Al Bireh, Jericho, Nablus and Jenin.

Finally, Today there are more Venezuelan films in festivals getting world attention than ever before.

There was a huge rally on the highway outside the capital Caracas in Venezuela. A pro-government crowd was about to clash with the opposition. Suddenly, a football appeared and instead of the violent confrontation, a football match began.

Over this month, the Spanish Film Festival showcases Hermano, a film with a story and power. The film truly does not end after the credits roll, but it stays with the viewer who processes it for days afterward.

Quoted from the director, "It is the story of two soccer loving brothers who live in the poorest – and largest – slum in Latin America."

One brother has a plan how to break out for the barrio through football.)

Venezuela was never a football (soccer) country. It identifies more with the Caribbean where the people prefer baseball. Venezuela traditionally only pays attention to soccer once every four years during the World Cup which, of course, it has never won.

Today their teams are playing better, not getting trounced at every game and this started a huge popular movement called "Vino Tinto" meaning Red Wine, named for the color of Venezuela's uniform.

Venezuela is also a country of tremendous political tensions and disagreements and for the last 10 years political confrontation has defined the country within and outside its borders. E.g. in the U.S., people widely know of Chavez who handed Obama an important book about Latin America, 'Open Veins'!

Copa Libertadores quarter finals:

Santos earned a crucial away win, while Peñarol made the most of their home advantage as the Copa Libertadores quarter-finals got underway.

Santos - now short favourites for the crown after the elimination of several big-name clubs in the round-of-16 phase - put one foot in the semi-finals after Alan Patrick's 42nd-minute strike handed them a 1-0 win at Colombian outfit Once Caldas on Wednesday.

Possessing several bright young stars - including heavily courted duo Neymar and Ganso - it was another prospect in winger Alan Patrick who made the biggest impact at the Colombian champions' Estadio Palogrande with the only goal of the game.

Controlling Neymar's pass as he made his way into the penalty area unattended, the Brazil Under-20 representative made no mistake with his right boot to put Santos in front.

Once Caldas' attempts to reply were not helped by a second yellow card to Elke Calle in the 59th minute, ensuring the defender with miss the second leg in Brazil next Wednesday.

Uruguayan champions Peñarol made their home advantage count in a 2-0 win over Chilean outfit Universidad Católica at the mighty and fearful Centenario stadium.

Strike duo Juan Manuel Olivera and Alejandro Martinuccio did the damage for Peñarol, scoring in the 37th and 90th minute respectively to hand their side a sound advantage heading into the second leg.

Despite on-loan Boca Juniors forward Lucas Pratto leading the line - having scored six goals already in the competition - Católica drew a blank and must now overturn the deficit in Santiago on Wednesday.

In the other two quarter-final ties, held last Thursday, Argentina Primera Division outfit Vélez Sarsfield were at "home" to Paraguayan club Libertad in Buenos Aires playing at another stadium due to a ban from crowd trouble and Mexican side Jaguares hosted Paraguayan club Cerro Porteño.

Vélez Sarsfield romped to a 3-0 win in their Copa Libertadores tie with Paraguay's Libertad on Thursday. Maximiliano Moralez opened the scoring for the hosts after 21 minutes, but they had to wait until the 76th minute to double their lead when Juan Martínez converted from the penalty spot.

Martinez scored a second five minutes later to hand the Argentines a handy buffer heading into the second leg in Paraguay next week.

The other Paraguayan outfit - Cerro Porteño - played out a 1-1 draw with Mexican club Jaguares in their quarter-final first-leg clash at Mexico's Estadio Zoque VMR. Great result for the "ciclón".

Jonathan Fabbro fired the visitors ahead in the 73rd minute, but England-born striker Antonio Pedroza was on hand in stoppage time to fire home what could be a crucial leveller ahead of the second leg this week.

Follow us online for results and wrap-ups of the clásico between Boca Juniors and River Plate, plus overnight action from across the continent including the Chilean derby between Universidad Católica and Universidad de Chile.

Latino football flick fiesta!

Rohan Jones is a writer, graduated from the Victorian College of Arts at the University of Melbourne. He met Marcel Rasquin, a Venezuelan filmmaker. Hermano means brother by the way, in Spanish. Goal! Weekly has the exclusive.

When football meets film, it can be a flop or very powerful. Hermano/Brother is so real, it not only forms a part of the Spanish Film Festival currently screening across the nation and in Auckland, New Zealand. It is also eligible for a nomination for an Academy Award.

Funded by Film Victoria, the film was shot on location in the slums of Petare in Caracas, the capital. Imagine, the hardship, the poverty trap, the crime, the Chavez-run nation that is dominated by a military fist and baseball. Now football, through Daniel and "Morocho", the step-brothers trying their luck for Caracas FC are also trying to get even with other more personal issues.

Football is so real in the film, it becomes educational. Venezuela no longer is the easy-ride. They have qualified for the under 20 World Cup in Egypt a couple of years back. The actors were casted over in Venezuela and writer Rohan Jones



at the premiere screening in Melbourne spoke openly about how the film came about.

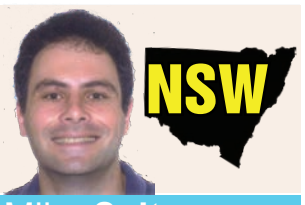
His originality for the script came from a mass protest rally that occurred and where the football came from somewhere amongst the deadly and ferocious, violent scenes that were politically-led and all of a sudden, people forgot about it, began playing and all left home.

Rohan describes the experience as unique. Having been in Venezuela four times and immersing himself into the culture, he says that Marcel made the film with so much passion that the casting also were perfect and understood the work that had to be done. There is also a possibility of a re-make as writer Rohan has the rights to the work in both Spanish and English.

His knowledge of football has increased, "it has been an amazing ride" and the film is so realistic with its socioeconomic backdrop it may well possibly be one of the greatest football films ever made. Big statement worthy of mentioning.

Madman have bought the distribution rights. SBS will be screening it soon and don't miss out the other screenings in Brisbane and Sydney. Brother will not have commercial screening which is a true shame for this unique Australian-Venezuelan co-production. For more details, check ***www.spanishfilmfestival.com*** under Films for 96 mins of box office football action. Injury time added.

Olympic sink United to retain lead



Mike Salter

SYDNEY Olympic retained top spot in the NSW Premier League with a vital 3-2 away win over Sydney United on Sunday afternoon. United remain in third place after second-placed Sutherland kept up the pressure on Olympic by defeating Marconi, another team in the top five, 2-1 on Saturday evening. Details of that one can be found below.

In other games, Rockdale City gained an important 1-0 away win over fellow cellar-dwellers Blacktown, while Manly United continued their buoyant start to the season with a 2-1 win at APIA. A hat-trick from Freddie Graham ensured Bankstown City a 3-0 win over their hosts Parramatta FC, while a much-needed 3-1 win for Bonnyrigg over the South Coast Wolves was soured by another head injury to the hosts' keeper Phil Zabaks, who suffered horrific trauma to the head after a collision with a Manly attacker last season.

Sutherland Sharks 2 – 1 Marconi

Two second-half goals in quick succession for the Sutherland Sharks cancelled out Graziano Trimboli's opener for Marconi, as the hosts maintained their unbeaten run in 2011.

Although Marconi had the first chance of the game, Matthew Mayora testing Nathan Denham with a low shot, Sutherland had the better of the early play. On ten minutes Yianni Fragogiannis sliced Panny Nikas's left-wing cut-back wide of goal, and the home side had another good chance a few minutes later when Matthew Bailey's angled header forced a smart save from James Chronopoulos.

After another half-chance for Bailey, Nick Stavroulakis went agonizingly close to putting Sutherland ahead when he stole the ball in midfield and advanced confidently, only to send his shot against the outside of the post. A minute later the bombardment continued, with Nikas having his shot cleared off the line from Chris Price's cross.

Two more chances arrived shortly after the half-hour, as Marconi's defensive posture continued to invite attempts at goal. Bailey shot wide from an acute angle after good lead-up work by Fragogiannis, and on 34 minutes Nikas's shot was blocked to Nick Tsattalios, who stung the hands of Chronopoulos.

Marconi gave the first sign of a turn of the tide when Nahuel Arrarte surprised Denham with a dangerous snap-shot from midfield, which the Sutherland keeper held with some difficulty. Encouraged by his captain's efforts, Mayora then went on a sinuous run through the home defence before firing wide. On 43 minutes, the Marconi initiative bore fruit, when Matthew Gordon's cross was deflected into the path of Trimboli, who shot low and true into the far corner.



NSW Premier League action between Bonnyrigg White Eagles and South Coast Wolves. Photo: CARLOS FURTADO/Courtesy FNSW

At the beginning of the second period Marconi appeared to be holding their own, but an injury to impressive defender Adel El-Jamal was to prove costly for the visitors. Tsattalios had given an indication of his intent when he went on a surging run down the left just after the restart, and on 55 minutes he connected with a superb inside-out ball from Nikas; powering on into the area, he let fly with his left foot, leaving Chronopoulos with no chance. 1-1.

Only two minutes later, Sutherland were in front, although the goal was somewhat controversial. A long ball forward from George Souris saw lone striker Sam Awad give chase, and just as Chronopoulos appeared to have gathered the ball, Awad managed to prod it away from the goalkeeper and over the line. The decision to allow the goal seemed debatable, and Chronopoulos was booked for dissent in the aftermath.

After such a stunning double blow, the fight went out of Marconi. They were unable to fashion any chances of note in the minutes following the goal, and it was Sutherland who appeared to be coming home stronger. Awad had another chance on 71 minutes, glancing a header into Chronopoulos's arms, and then the big forward turned provider, winning the ball on the left and squaring it cleverly for Bailey, who forced the Marconi custodian into a fine save.

Although Sutherland's play became scrappy in the final ten minutes, the win never looked in doubt. Chris Nunes had one final chance for the visitors in injury time, but when his shot sailed wide the result was clearly not going to change.

NSW Results

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 8:
FIRST GRADE:
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 (Daniel Severino 32/55m David Vrankovic 49m) South Coast Wolves 1 (Mark Piccolini 52m), Parramatta Eagles 0 Bankstown City 3 (Fredrick Graham 18/71/87m), Sutherland Sharks 2 (Nikolas Tsattalios 54m Sam Awad 57m) Marconi Stallions 1 (G Trimboli 42m), APIA Leichhardt Tigers 1 (Franco Parisi 15m) Manly United FC 2 (Adam Foti 16m Joseph Gibbs 37m), Blacktown City FC 0 Rockdale City Suns 1 (Shay Spitz 67m), Sydney United 2 (Luka Glavas 13/53m) Sydney Olympic 3 (Emmanuel Giannaros 3m Robert Mileski 35m Phillip Makrys 82m pen).

GRADE 20:
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 South Coast Wolves 1, Parramatta Eagles 3 Bankstown City 0, Sutherland Sharks 0 Marconi Stallions 1, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 1 Manly United FC 2, Blacktown City FC 1 Rockdale City Suns 1, Sydney United 0 Sydney Olympic 1.

Next Round

Rockdale City vs Sutherland Sharks
Ilinden Sports Centre 7:00 PM Sat 21/May

Bankstown City vs APIA Leichhardt
Jensen Park 7:00 PM Sat 21/May

Manly United vs South Coast Wolves
Cromer Park 3:00 PM Sun 22/May

Blacktown City s Bonnyrigg WE
Lily Homes 3:00 PM Sun 22/May

Marconi Stallions vs Sydney Olympic
Marconi Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 22/May

Sydney United vs Parramatta FC
Sydney Utd Sports Cente 4:00 PM Sun 22/May

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sydney Olympic	8	6	1	1	19	8	11	19
2 Sutherland Sharks	8	5	0	3	12	7	5	18
3 Sydney United	8	4	2	2	16	9	7	14
4 Bonnyrigg WE	8	2	2	4	11	10	1	10
5 Manly United FC	7	2	1	4	12	11	1	10
6 Bankstown City	8	3	4	1	11	14	-3	10
7 Rockdale City	8	3	4	1	6	11	-5	10
8 Marconi Stallions	8	2	3	3	8	8	0	9
9 APIA Leichhardt	8	2	3	3	11	13	-2	9
10 South Coast	8	3	5	0	8	14	-6	9
11 Blacktown City	8	2	4	2	9	10	-1	8
12 Parramatta FC	7	0	5	2	4	12	-8	2

Miners Shock Strikers



Jarrod Ellis

WHITSUNDAY MINERS blew a gaping hole into the Brisbane Strikers 2011 QSL campaign on Saturday night, with two first half goals and an almost flawless defensive display proving too much for the Strikers at Harrup Park, as the home side ran out 2-0 winners.

The Miners proved that last week's 1-1 draw against champions Sunshine Coast Fire was no fluke. Two early strikes through a virtually unavoidable own goal from Strikers fullback Myles Carseldine and an explosive shot from distance by centre half Corey Hooper had the Miners staring down the barrel of their first-ever win over the Strikers, and although the Strikers never gave up the fight they were simply unable to make an impression on a resolute Miners back four.

When Miners goalkeeper Brad Moss made two crucial saves from long distance shots by Matt Thurtell and Carseldine midway through the second half, the Miners had done enough to see out a win that not only damages the Strikers' championship hopes but also provides even more hints, if they were needed, that this season's QSL is a rather different and less predictable beast than those that have gone before it.

Miners coach Graham Harvey, who had been obliged to watch the game from the spectators' stand rather than his usual pitchside vantage point, courtesy of his suspension after last week's controversial draw with the Sunshine Coast, said his team's performance had demonstrated the gathering of momentum.

"It's the kind of level we've been building to", Harvey said. "I'd say that in the last ten minutes against Southern Cross in our first home game we really showed what we were capable of – we scored two goals there – and then we built into that with our victory down at the Gold Coast and obviously our draw at the Sunshine Coast last weekend. So it's the level we are expecting the boys to be at, but one that they've had to progress to".

Elsewhere, Sunshine Coast Fire overcame the disappointment of Round 8's draw against the Miners with a deserved 3-0 win over Bundaberg Spirit.

Tyson Holmes was the star of the show bagging all three goals for his side. The first two were crucial to the fate of the match, with Bundaberg looking like they might make it to the half having not conceded Holmes struck two dagger blows within five minutes of half-time to crush the Spirit's confidence.

The win, coupled with Brisbane's shock defeat at the hands of Whitsunday Miners leaves Sunshine Coast eight clear at the top of the table with only nine games played.

NQ Razorbacks were also in action on Saturday night, hosting the struggling Capricorn Cougars at Brolga Park.



Gold Coast Stars' Matt Hiltoncompletes an acrobatic kick. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE. INSET: Fire's Shaun Blackman gets a shot away, threading the ball past Bundy's Brett Kitching. Photo: ROBYN WOODALL

The Razorbacks got off to the better start, taking the lead in the first half thanks to a goal from midfielder Lee Mayberry.

The second half however belonged to the visitors. Trailing 1-0, onlookers would more than likely have written off the Cougars chances of getting a result considering their terrible form so far this season. The Cougars doggedly hung on though and their persistence was rewarded when, over the space of three minutes they scored two goals to take the lead.

With only eleven minutes of regular time remaining it appeared that Max Thompson and Tyler Stross had managed to snatch a much needed victory for the Cougars but their hopes of all three points were dashed in the 90th minute by David Bowater who equalised for the Razorbacks.

Despite not getting the win even a solitary point will come as welcome relief for Washington Gonzales' side. A string of horror results including a 14-1 thrashing at the hands of Sunshine Coast seems like it might be drawing to a close after now recording two encouraging performances in a row.

Queensland Results

NQ Razorbacks 2 (Mayberry 34, Bowater 90)
Capricorn Cougars 2 (Thompson 77, Stross 79)

Bundaberg Spirit 0
Sunshine Coast Fire 3 (Holmes 40,42,72)

Whitsunday Miners 2 (og 4, Hooper 14)
Brisbane Strikers 0

Gold Coast Stars 1 (Marsh 78)
Qld Academy Sport 1 (Ronto 68)

FNQ Bulls - Bye

Next Round

NQ Razorbacks v Bundaberg Spirit
21-May 7:00pm

Whitsunday Miners v QAS
21-May 7:00pm

Gold Coast Stars v FNQ Bulls
22-May 2:00pm

Sunshine Coast FC v Brisbane Strikers
22-May 2:00pm

Capricorn Cougars v BYE

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sunshine Coast	8	6	2	0	29	4	25	20
2 Brisbane Strikers	7	4	0	3	18	9	9	12
3Qld AoS	7	2	4	1	13	9	4	10
4 FNQ Bulls	6	2	3	1	11	8	3	9
5 NQ Razorbacks	8	2	3	3	16	13	3	9
6 Whitsunday Miners	6	2	3	1	7	7	0	9
7 Gold Coast Stars	6	2	2	2	7	9	-2	8
8 Bundaberg Spirit	7	1	1	5	7	24	-17	4
9 Capricorn Cougars	7	0	2	5	7	32	-25	2

South Hobart well on the way to title



Walter Pless

REIGNING champions South Hobart took an important step towards retaining their Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title when they beat their nearest pursuers, Clarence United, 5-1 away at Wentworth park on Saturday night.

Clarence dropped a place to third as a result, while New Town Eagles moved up a place into second with a comfortable 4-0 win at home at Clare Street over second-last Beachside, who had beaten Eagles 3-1 in the first round.

It was South Hobart's second league win over the high-flying Clarence. They had beaten the Eastern Shore outfit 8-0 in the first round.

This time, the win was not as emphatic, but it was still achieved in style and marked South Hobart as huge title favourites.

Clarence should have scored twice in the opening quarter of an hour as Jae-Ho Lee's pace down the left enabled him to get behind the South Hobart defence and deliver two telling crosses, but Seung-Woo Park hit the crossbar from the first and lobbed the ball harmlessly over the bar from the second.

One does not let South Hobart off the hook in such a way without suffering the consequences, and this is exactly what happened to the home side.

In the 21st minute, Kostas Kanakaris delivered the ball from the left and Andy Brennan beat keeper Trent Cornish, enabling Brayden Mann to sweep the ball into the net from close range to put the visitors ahead.

Brennan made it 2-0 in the 38th minute after Kanakaris's free-kick from the left caught out the Clarence defence.

Fullback Jim Pennicott added South's third two minutes after the interval before Kyu-Jin Kim pulled a goal back for Clarence with 20 minutes remaining.

That was merely the signal for South to step up a gear and Mann bamboozled two defenders on the left of the box before making it 4-1 with a low drive inside the near post in the 72nd minute.

Substitute Jonathon Lo repeated his usual party trick after coming on by netting a fifth for South in the dying minutes.

Beachside went close a couple of times in the opening minutes of their game against New Town Eagles, but failure to convert their chances cost them dearly.

A poor back-header by defender Nathan Robinson enabled Adam McKeown to gain possession and lob the ball over keeper Michael Soszynski and give Eagles a first-half lead.

McKeown was also unlucky when he headed Ben Whitehall's cross against the Beachside crossbar, while Eagles defender Mark Page also went close with two good shots as Eagles gained control.

McKeown made it 2-0 in the 51st minute, while he played an important part in Seong-Sun Jo's goal in the 67th minute which made it 3-0.

Beachside had a couple of chances after that with shots that flew wide before Simon Strang added the home side's fourth two minutes from the end.



Beachside's John Rogers (right) in possession as Eagles' Michael Anderson moves in. Photo: WALTER PLESS

Eagles are now South Hobart's main rivals and their meeting in a couple of weeks' time should be enthralling.

Olympia Warriors continue to languish at the foot of the table after succumbing 3-2 away to fifth-placed Kingborough Lions United at Lightwood Park.

It was a costly win for the Lions as their defender Adam Hinkley suffered a broken leg.

The Lions took a 3rd-minute lead when David Abbott netted from a free-kick, but a penalty by Ben Phillips in the 20th minute made it all square.

Lions captain Marcello Marchioli restored his side's lead in the 50th minute, while Alex Nandan equalised for the visitors in the 65th minute.

Marc Iseli hit the winner for Lions with 5 minutes remaining to move within three points of fourth-ranked Tilford Zebras, who downed sixth-placed Glenorchy Knights 1-0 at KGV Park on Friday night through a 65th-minute strike by Jayden Welch.

The three bottom sides - Glenorchy Knights on 6 points, Beachside on 5 points and Olympia Warriors on 4 points - appear as if they will be fighting against relegation.

In the Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League, Prospect Knights drew level with leaders Northern Rangers after beating bottom-side Launceston United 4-2.

Burnie United scored an important 2-1 away win over Somerset in the North-West Coast derby, while Ulverstone kept the pressure on the leading trio with a 4-1 win over Launceston City.

Devonport City stayed third with a 3-1 away win over Riverside Olympic.

Southern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart FC	9	7	2	0	31	11	23
Clarence United	9	6	2	1	19	16	20
New Town Eagles	9	5	3	1	19	12	18
Tilford Zebras	8	3	3	2	20	15	12
Kingborough Lions	9	3	0	6	16	23	9
Glenorchy Knights	9	1	3	5	15	26	6
Beachside FC	8	1	2	5	10	16	5
Olympia FC	9	1	1	7	15	26	4

Forestry Tasmania Results

Southern Premier League
Tilford Zebras 1 Glenorchy Knights 0
New Town Eagles 4 Beachside FC 0
Kingborough Lions 3 Olympia FC 2
Clarence United South Hobart FC

Northern Premier League
Prospect Knights 4 Launceston United 2
Riverside Olympic 1 Devonport City 3
Ulverstone 4 Launceston City 1
Somerset 1 Burnie United 2

Next Round

Statewide Lakoseljac Cup

South Hobart v Kingborough Lions
South Hobart @ 02:00 PM

Taroona v Riverside Olympic
Kelvedon Park @ 02:00 PM

Nelson Eastern Suburbs v Burnie United
North Warrane @ 02:30 PM

Prospect Knights v Northern Rangers
Prospect Park @ 02:00 PM

Devonport City v Launceston United
Valley Road @ 07:30 PM Friday

Olympia FC Warriors v Ulverstone
Warriors Park @ 03:00 PM

Glenorchy Knights v New Town Eagles
KGV Park @ 05:15 PM

Tilford Zebras v Clarence United FC
KGV Park @ 07:30 PM

Northern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Rangers	7	5	1	1	18	6	16
Prospect Knights	6	4	1	1	11	5	13
Devonport City	6	4	0	2	16	14	12
Launceston City	6	3	2	1	13	8	11
Ulverstone	6	3	1	2	16	11	10
Riverside Olympic	6	3	1	2	13	11	10
Somerset	7	2	0	5	10	17	6
Burnie United	6	1	0	5	7	17	3
Launceston Unite	6	0	0	6	11	26	0

Blue Eagles see off resilient Strikers



Nat Adamopoulos

Adelaide Blue Eagles overcame a resilient Western Strikers outfit with a 1-0 win at Marden Sports Complex on Saturday.

Fortunato Filletti got the winner inside the opening two minutes after a dramatic opening to the match.

Western Strikers defender Daniele La Stella was withdrawn from the starting line up moments before kick-off after injuring his calf in the warm up.

Jordan Spadavecchia was thrown into the starting XI but Strikers looked in disarray as ABE poached an early goal.

Nicholas Bucco fired from just outside the area for ABE and Strikers keeper Takumi Takahashi spilled the shot leaving Filletti to smash the ball into the net from close range.

Takahashi appeared to injure himself in the challenge from Filletti and managed to pull off a string of fine saves despite nursing a hand injury.

ABE attacker Kym Harris was best on ground and could have doubled his side's lead after hitting the upright with a header, while Blue Eagles keeper Gino De Lucia kept his side in front down the other end, keeping out a one-on-one with Strikers Andres Weins.

The ABE captain was called into action again after Strikers Cameroon goal machine Calvin Mbarga sent a brilliant bicycle kick into the top corner, before De Lucia got his finger tips to the ball and pushed it past the post.

Blue Eagles dominated the second half and had a flurry of chances late in the game to kill off the contest but were unable to find the back of the net.

Filletti and stopper Chris Atsikbatsis also collected votes for their performances while Strikers best were Eritrean Sami Tesfagber, Michael Russo and Takahashi.



Western Strikers keeper Takumi Takahashi pulls off a save from Ian Kamau as Andreas Wiens is grounded.
Inset: Adelaide Blue Eagles celebrate the only goal of the match scored by 9 - Fortunato Filletti. Photos: ADAM BUTLER

Raiders recorded their first win of the season thumping fellow cellar dweller Modbury 4-1 at Jet Park on Friday night.

A Kinglsey Francis hat-trick help John Kosmina get his maiden victory for the campaign and leapfrog the Jets and Para Hills off the bottom of the table.

Mimi Saric also got on the score sheet for Raiders as they took a 2-0 lead into the break, before Adrian Giacomelli snatched a consolation for Modbury.

Francis took home man-of-the-match honours for his superb performance while Daniel Hain and Adam Harris also starred.

Anthony Solagna, Todd McSorely and Shaun Harvey were Modbury's best as the Jets slumped to another heavy defeat, unable to back up from their first win of the season in Round 6 – a 2-0 victory over Para Hills.

After two losses, Croydon have returned to the winners list with a 1-0 defeat of Campbelltown at Steve Woodcock Sports Centre on Saturday.

Alemayo Kabede scored the winner in the second half to help the Kings back into the top five, two points clear of sixth-placed Western Strikers.

Dion Gazettas starred for the visitors with Ermias Tekle and captain Michael Papacharalambous also collecting votes for their performances.

Michael Menechella was Campbelltown's best while keeper Les Pogliacomi and Toby Nelson were also impressive in the defeat.

MetroStars scored a dramatic winner with the last kick of the day deep into injury time to record a 2-1 win over 10-men Para Hills at TK Shutter Reserve on Saturday.

Substitute Michael Matricciani stole the winner after Scott Tunbridge had opened the scoring for Metro inside the opening five minutes.

Brett Selga equalised for the Knights on the half hour before team-mate Rhys Townsend was given his second yellow card and sent off after half time.

Jackson Groves was outstanding for the home side while Tunbridge and Adam van Dommele were also impressive.

Selga, Shane Tobias and Simon Catanzaro were Para Hills best who have now slumped to second-bottom on the table, equal with Modbury and Raiders on four points.

Knights coach Kenny Tosh admitted there were plenty of positives to draw from the match, despite the defeat.

"It was disappointing to lose like that but it was a real refreshing change how the boys played," he said.

"We showed real endeavour and spirit and I reckon we had the better of Metro. We gave away a sloppy goal and then created a lot of chances to fight back and equalise."

"We were had a man sent off but continued to push but we just couldn't put the ball in the back of the net."

Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Adelaide City	6	6	0	0	20	3	17	0	18
2 Adelaide Galaxy	6	4	2	0	12	4	8	1	14
3 Metro Stars	7	4	1	2	16	6	10	0	13
4 Adelaide BE	7	3	2	2	8	8	0	0	11
5 Croydon	7	3	2	2	7	7	0	0	11
6 Western Strikers	7	3	0	4	9	8	1	0	9
7 Campbelltown	7	2	2	3	6	8	-2	0	8
8 Raiders	7	1	1	5	9	13	-4	0	4
9 Para Hills	7	1	1	5	5	13	-8	0	4
10 Modbury	7	1	1	5	5	27	-22	0	4

FFSA Results

Modbury 1 (Adrian Giacomelli) v Raiders 4 (Kingsley Francis 3, Mimi Saric) (HT 0-2)
Best – Modbury: Anthony Solagna, Todd McSorley, Shaun Harvey Raiders: Kingsley Francis, Daniel Hain, Adam Harris
Reserves – Not Supplied
U19 – Not Supplied

Adelaide Blue Eagles 1 (Fortunato Filletti) v Western Strikers 0 (HT 1-0)
Best – Adelaide Blue Eagles: Kym Harris, Fortunato Filletti, Chris Atsikbatsis; Western Strikers: Sami Tesfagber, Michael Russo, Takumi Takahashi
Reserves – Adelaide Blue Eagles 2 v Western Strikers 0
U19 – Adelaide Blue Eagles 1 v Western Strikers 0

Campbelltown 0 v Croydon 1 (Alemayo Kabede) (HT 0-0)
Best – Campbelltown: Michael Menechella, Les Pogliacomi, Toby Nelson; Croydon: Dion Gazettas, Ermias Tekle, Michael Papacharalambous,
Reserves – Campbelltown 0 v Croydon 5
U19 – Campbelltown 2 v Croydon 0

MetroStars 2 (Michael Matricciani, Scott Tunbridge) v Para Hills 1 (Brett Selga) (HT 1-1)
Best – MetroStars: Jackson Groves, Scott Tunbridge, Adam van Dommele; Para Hills: Brett Selga, Shane Tobias, Simon Catanzaro
Reserves – MetroStars 1 v Para Hills 0
U19 – MetroStars 2 v Para Hills 0

White City 3 Alex Jackson, Srdjan Semiz, Michael Keens v Cumberland 3 Robert Macdonald 3 / 2x Penalties. (HT 1-1)
Best – White City: Miroslav Petkovic, Rami Ahmed, Alex Jackson Cumberland: Roland Smith, Robert Macdonald, Shaun Smith
Reserves – White City 1 v Cumberland 0
U19 – White City 2 v Cumberland 3

Monday 16 May
Adelaide City v Adelaide Galaxy
7:30pm - Adelaide City Park, Corner Fosters Road & Hilltop Drive, OAKDEN

Reserves – Adelaide City 1 v Adelaide Galaxy 1
U19 – Adelaide City 7 v Adelaide Galaxy 1

Next Round

Coca Cola Federation Cup will played on the 21 st of May
South Adelaide V Adelaide Blue Eagles, Western Toros V Cumberland United, Sturt Lion V Campbelltown, Adelaide City V Adelaide Cobras, Apollo Soccer Club V Metro Stars, Gambier City Sharks soccer Club V Modbury, Seaford V Western Strikers, White City V Pirates, Croydon V Playford City, Adelaide Olympic V West Adelaide, Adelaide Comets V Para Hills, Noarlunga United V Riverland Soccer Association, Adelaide Galaxy V Northern Demons, Enfield City V Cove, Salisbury United V Rostrevor Old Colligians Soccer Club, Adelaide Hills V Raiders

Western Knights Leave it Late



Ashley Morrison

It is never a good sign when post match all everyone is talking about is the performance of the referee. It is even worse when both coaches concur on his performance. The Western Knights versus Armadale was spoiled as a spectacle by what can only be described as incompetent refereeing. Ten bookings in a game that did not involve one malicious tackle, spoiled a game in front of a very healthy crowd, and we wonder why fans fail to show up?

Armadale dominated the opening quarter of an hour and deservedly took the lead in the 15th minute. With the Knights' midfield sitting too deep, David Annall's clearance went to the feet of Parys Okai. He had time to control the ball, look up and deliver a pinpoint ball into the box that Matty Barlow flicked into the bottom left hand corner of Fraser Siddall's goal.

Three minutes later and Siddall saved superbly with his legs in a one-on-one with Tom Robinson. From the resultant corner the Knights rode their luck Warren Beattie's header was cleared off the line, and then Craig Young's drive thudded into the chest of a Knights' defender.

Within two minutes the Knights were level, a long ball up the park from Siddall was flicked on by Mikulic, and the ball fell to Montgomery who had run in behind the Armadale defence. Sharrock stayed on his line and Montgomery coolly rolled the ball into his far corner with the keeper flat footed.

Eleven minutes later Sharrock in the Armadale goal had his first save to make, and it was superb, Montgomery had time and space to pick out Mikulic and his powerful header from six yards was palmed over the cross bar.

Within two minutes of the restart Siddall was again at his best saving at the feet of Tom Robinson after a Dawson error saw him race clear.

On the hour mark, the match turned on a crazy decision. Armadale had a free kick at the edge of the Knights box. The referee held up his whistle, to indicate wait for my whistle to take it. Okai appeared not to understand and tried to take it quickly. The referee called him back and then issued him with a yellow card, his second and bewildered he left for an early shower. The referee then bizarrely spent over a minute explaining his decision to the bemused Armadale coach, Scott Miller.

Armadale to their credit kept battling and had cries for a penalty turned down in the 70th minute. Siddall had dropped the ball in a challenge with Campbell and appeared to hold the striker as the ball rolled loose. Within a minute of this decision, they found themselves a goal behind.

A deep cross from the left was met by Montgomery, who audaciously struck it on the volley. IT beat Sharrock and thundered into the underside of the bar, and Mikulic was on hand to nod the ball across the line into an empty net.

In the 82nd minute the referee evened the sides up sending substitute Callum Roberts from the field after the ball struck his arm as he was falling over. A second yellow card and a second send off that was as ridiculous as it was unnecessary.



Sorrento and former Perth Glory defender Jamie Harnwell and Balcatta striker Daniel Niederberger in action at Percy Doyle Reserve. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

Tom Robinson should have equalized fro Armadale within two minutes, but unmarked at the back post he guided his header into the side netting. However with two minutes left on the clock he did pop up for an equalizer. A high ball into the box was misjudged by Siddall in the wind, Young gave Lecky a nudge into his own keeper and he dropped the ball. Robinson pounced and hammered it home.

Incredibly with the game one minute into time added on the Knights found a winner. A corner was cleared by Armadale only as far as Duncan Hind on the left. He struck a powerful low drive that fortuitously hit Mikulic, and changed the course of the shot and diverted it into the back of the net.

The Knights had a few restless minutes to survive as the referee played an inexplicable six extra minutes, and they had Siddall to thank for hanging on to all three points as he made two crucial saves. The win lifts the Knights to third on the ladder.

Top of the ladder Balcatta who looked almost invincible last week against Perth crashed back to earth this week with a 2-1 loss at Sorrento, while Perth were back to winning ways with a convincing 3-1 away win against bottom side Cockburn City.

Newly promoted Bayswater City squandered a 2-0 lead against high flying Inglewood United that saw both teams come away with a point. Mandurah City played the NTC for no points, while Joondalup had a bye.

The Sunday fixture was Floreat Athena against arch rivals Stirling Lions.

All Flags WA Results

First Team

Cockburn City 1 (Anthony 51) Perth SC 3 (Sharland 14, Kay 77, Pereira 90+2); Bayswater City 2 (Muralanda 29, Jorquera 37) Inglewood Utd 2 (Richman 59, 64); Mandurah City 3 (Bell 11, Collins 38, Insurralde 64) NTC 1 (Quaqua 67); Western Knights 3 (Montgomery 20, Mikulic 71, 90) Armadale 2 (Barlow 15, J Robinson 88); Sorrento 2 (T Harnwell 17, Platten 19) Balcatta 1 (Niederberger 60). Floreat Athena 1 (P Van Dongen 30) Stirling Lions 0.

Reserves

Cockburn City 3 Perth SC 1; Bayswater City 2 Inglewood Utd 1; Mandurah City 1 NTC 2; Western Knights 6 Armadale 0; Sorrento 4 Balcatta 0. Floreat Athena 1 Stirling Lions 1.

Under 18's

Cockburn City 3 Perth SC 3; Bayswater City 2 Inglewood Utd 2; Mandurah City 0 NTC 7; Western Knights 0 Armadale 3; Sorrento 2 Balcatta 2. Floreat Athena 2 Stirling Lions 1.

Next Round

Inglewood United V Floreat Athena FC
6PR Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 21/May
Armadale SC V Cockburn City
Alfred Skeet Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 21/May
Perth SC V Sorrento FC
BGC Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 21/May
ECU Joondalup V NTC
Joondalup Football Stdm3:00 PM Sat 21/May
Balcatta SC V Western Knights
Grindleford Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 21/May
Stirling Lions V Mandurah City
Macedonia Park 3:00 PM Sun 22/May
BYE V Bayswater City

All Flags WA Premier League

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Balcatta	10	8	0	2	28	11	17	24
2 Perth SC	10	7	1	2	24	12	12	22
3 Western Knights	10	6	2	2	17	15	2	20
4 Inglewood United	10	6	1	3	30	19	11	19
5 Sorrento	10	6	1	3	17	14	3	19
6 ECU Joondalup	11	4	2	5	13	21	-8	14
7 Bayswater City	11	3	3	5	17	21	-4	12
8 Mandurah City	10	3	2	5	9	11	-2	11
9 Floreat Athena	10	3	2	5	14	17	-3	11
10 Stirling Lions	10	3	2	5	14	18	-4	11
11 Armadale	10	2	1	7	11	19	-8	7
12 Cockburn City	10	1	1	8	12	28	-16	4

Spaleta bags sensational winner for Canberra FC



Russ Gibbs

CANBERRA FC re-affirmed their status as top-dogs in the Rock Premier League by defeating arch-rivals Belconnen United 3-2 at Deakin Stadium on a freezing cold Canberra afternoon but didn't have it all their own way as Belconnen gave them a fright and left the home team hanging on in a frantic finale.

The hosts had earlier taken a first half lead when Anthony Bekavac reacted quickest to a fumble by Blue Devils goalkeeper Rohan Shepherd to prod the ball into an empty net from two metres in the 28th minute. Shepherd evoked memories of his unfortunate display in last season's Grand Final when he spilled Adam Spaleta's speculative long-range effort and Bekavac couldn't miss.

Credit to the young shot-stopper though who recovered his poise and stood tall as Canberra FC attempted to swamp Belconnen with plenty of possession and some half-decent chances. Danny Macor levelled matters for Belconnen in the 60th minute prodding in from close range but parity lasted barely two minutes as Ian Graham pushed Canberra FC 2-1 ahead.



M Shields celebrates after scoring the equaliser Photos: NICK GUOTH

A stunning effort from Adam Splaeta, the midfielder collecting a pass cutting infield and curling a beautiful strike beyond Shepherd into the far corner appeared to have settled matters but the arch poacher Macor was at it again late on finishing from close range to give Belconnen some hope. Despite a late flurry from the visitors Canberra FC held on showing their champion character to take the points.

Over in Cookbundoon Daniel Beaumont made hay as the sun shined for Tuggeranong as they became the latest team to inflict a heavy defeat on Goulburn Strikers winning 8-1. Beaumont struck four goals, one from the penalty spot, in the win with Danny Moutrey, Chris Ruiz and Andrew Lawrence all also finding the back of the net. An unfortunate own goal completed the Tuggeranong scoring with Sam Taylor netting the Strikers response, their first goal of the season. The home team could have doubled their tally but skipper Adam Mills blazed his penalty way over the bar. The Strikers were in touch for a while but shipped four goals in the final eleven minutes as the score blew out.

Meanwhile, Canberra Olympic continued their good form with a stunning 5-0 win over Cooma Tigers at Nijong Oval where Robbie Shroder struck a brace. Elia Salloum, Travis Dries and Mohsen Ravanparsa were Olympic's other scorers in a superb away performance that has certainly seen them ear-marked as one to watch as the season progresses.

In the Saturday afternoon match Canberra City emerged as victors in a five-goal thriller with Monaro Panthers at Hawker Football Centre. City needed a double from the penalty spot from Misko Naumoski, the striker's fifth and sixth of the season, to take the points after Adam Dobell had put Matt Moore's team into the lead as early as the fifth minute. Mark Shields was the Panthers most potent attacking threat and equalised for the visitors after 39 minutes. The prolific forward added his eighth goal of the season just after the second of Naumoski's penalties to give the match a grandstand finish but City held on to move up to third on the early Rock Premier League ladder.

ACT Results

Canberra City 3 (Adam Dobell 5', Misko Naumoski 80' (pen), 85' (pen)) Monaro Panthers 2 (Mark Shields 39', 88')

Canberra FC 3 (Anthony Bekavac 28', Ian Graham 61', Adam Spaleta 73') Belconnen United 2 (Danny Macor 60', 77')

Tuggeranong United 8 (Daniel Beaumont 23', 37', 46' (pen), 79', Own Goal 58', Chris Ruiz 77', Danny Moutrey 85', Andrew Lawrence 86') Goulburn Strikers 1 (Sam Taylor 81')

Canberra Olympic 5 (Robbie Shroder (2), Elia Salloum, Travis Dries, Mohsen Ravaparsa) Cooma Tigers 0

Next Round

Belconnen United v Monaro
McKellar Park 5:00 PM Sat 21/May

Goulburn Strikers v Woden Valley
Cookbundoon 1 3:00 PM Sun 22/May

Canberra City v TUFC
Hawker Football Ctre 3:00 PM Sun 22/May

Canberra Olympic v Canberra FC
O'Connor Enclosed 1 3:00 PM Sun 22/May

BYE v Cooma SC

ACT Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
Canberra FC	3	3	0	0	26	4	+22	9
2 Canberra Olympic	2	2	0	0	8	2	+6	6
3 Woden Valley	2	2	0	0	6	1	+5	6
4 Canberra City	3	2	0	1	8	5	+3	6
5 Monaro Panthers	3	1	0	2	15	5	+10	3
6 Tuggeranong Utd	2	1	0	1	8	5	+3	3
7 Belconnen United	3	1	0	2	8	8	0	3
8 Cooma Tigers	3	0	0	3	2	13	-11	0
9 Goulburn Strikers	3	0	0	3	1	39	-38	0

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WAG OF THE WEEK



Jessica Jordan Age: 27
Scores with Marcelo Moreno (Shakhtar Donetsk)

Couch Potato Dept.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEST

SBS

SBS ONE
Monday 16th May
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:30 pm The World Game

Thursday May 19th
05:15 AM **UEFA Europa League Final**
Braga (Por) V Porto (Por)
Live *from the Dublin Arena, Ireland.*

SBS TWO
Monday May 17th
09:30 PM *The World Game*

FOX SPORTS

PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE

Wed May 18 Manchester City v Stoke	4.40 am	
Mon May 23 Final Day – Teams TBA	12.30 am	
Mon May 23 Final Day – Teams TBA	12.55 am	Viewers Choice
Mon May 23 Final Day – Teams TBA	12.55 am	Viewers Choice
Mon May 23 Final Day – Teams TBA	12.55 am	Viewers Choice
Mon May 23 Final Day – Teams TBA	12.55 am	Viewers Choice

Final day of season.

Teams will not be known until Monday 16 May

All games kick-off at 1.00 am EST.
Coverage on Fox Sports 2 from 12.30 am EST.
One main feature game will be broadcast (KO 1.00 am EST).
Four other matches will be broadcast LIVE via Viewers Choice.

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE LIVE
Playoffs Semi-Finals
Leg 2

Tue May 17 FLC: Swansea v Notts Forest	4.30 am
Wed May 18 FLC: Cardiff v Reading	4.30 am
Thu May 19 FL1: Huddersfield v Bournemouth	4.30 am
Fri May 20 FL1: Peterborough v MK Dons	4.30 am
Sat May 21 FL2: Accrington Stanley v Stevenage	4.30 am

FLC = Championship
FL1 = League One
FL2 = League Two

one HD

Monday 16th May
09:00 am The Story Of The FA Cup
12:00 am Bundesliga Matchday 34:

Tuesday 17th May
05:00 am Serie A Match Of The Round
11:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights Matchday 34
12:30 pm Liverpool TV Liverpool V Tottenham Hotspur
11:00 pm World Football News SEASON FINALE

Wednesday 18th May
01:30 am Arsenal TV Arsenal V Aston Villa
06:00 am The Serie A Highlights Show Matchday 37
06:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights (Rpt) Matchday 34
07:30 am World Football News (Rpt)

Thursday 19th May
03:00 am Liverpool TV (Rpt) Liverpool V Tottenham Hotspur
06:00 am Arsenal TV (Rpt) Arsenal V Aston Villa

Friday 20th May
03:00 pm The Serie A Highlights Show (Rpt) Matchday 37

Monday 23rd May
04:45 am LIVE: Serie A Matchday 38: Inter Milan V Catania

SETANTA SPORTS

Monday 16-May
Serie A Fiorentina v Bologna 3am Delay
Serie A Napoli v Inter 4:40am LIVE
Serie A Parma v Juventus 8:30am Delay
Serie A Catania v Roma 10:15am Delay
Portuguese Liga Final Round Porto v Maritimo 2pm Delay
Eredivisie Final Round Ajax v FC Twente 5:45pm Delay

Tuesday 17-May
Serie A Bari v Lecce 3:45am Delay
Serie A Cesena v Brescia 5:30am Delay
Serie A Sampdoria v Palermo 8:15am Delay

Wednesday 18-May
Setanta Sports Cup Final Shamrock Rovers v Dundalk 1:30am Delay

Thursday 19-May
Copa Libertadores Quarter-Final 2nd Leg Libertad v Velez Sarsfield 8:25am LIVE
Copa Libertadores Quarter-Final 2nd Leg Santos v Once Caldas 10:55am LIVE
Bundesliga Final Round Hannover v Nuremburg 5:15pm Delay

Friday 20-May
Copa Libertadores Quarter-Final 2nd Leg Universidad Catolica v Penarol 8:55am LIVE
Copa Libertadores Quarter-Final 2nd Leg Cerro Porteno v Jaguares 11:25am LIVE

Saturday 21-May
J-League Gamba Osaka v Abirex Niigita 7:55pm LIVE
Scottish Cup Final Celtic v Motherwell 11:55pm LIVE

Sunday 22-May
Blue Square Premier League Final Luton v AFC Wimbledon 5:45am Delay

Monday 23-May
Serie A Final Round Udinese v AC Milan 4:40am LIVE
Serie A Final Round Juventus v Napoli 7am Delay
Serie A Final Round Roma v Sampdoria 8:45am Delay
Serie A Final Round Palermo v Chievo 10:30am Delay
Serie A Final Round Brescia v Fiorentina 3:15pm Delay
Serie A Final Round Cagliari v Parma 11:45pm Delay

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Channel 31
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Every Saturday 10.30am

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LONDON CALLING





With Adam North in the UK



Can QPR succeed in the EPL?

QPR clinched the Championship in style and return to the EPL after a 15-year absence. But have they got the quality to stay up?

THE English Premier League season is nearly at an end. We already know who the winners are this term, but the tag of losers has yet to be stamped upon the figurative foreheads of the three teams to be relegated from England's top division.

Tomorrow morning is going to be a really quiet one in Manchester I would guess, as both sides of the city stay in to recover from tonight's celebration of their respective victories; United in the League and City in the FA Cup. Well I suppose you could argue that Manchester will be full of drunken City fans, and London full of United fans, but let's not get into that right now.

With the League and Cup being decided, on the same day no less, the only real unanswered question pertaining to the English top flight is exactly which three teams will have their status as Premier League side revoked, spending next season in the English Championship.

But that excitement is all still to come. What is known right now, or at least almost known, is which teams will be replacing those relegated next season. Norwich will be arriving into the hallowed ground of the Premier League as second place finishers, and one from Nottingham Forest, Cardiff, Swansea and Reading will be heading up via the Championship play-offs. And the team that will be coming up to the Premier League as Championship winners will be Queens Park Rangers.

Last weekend QPR were formally announced as the winners of the 2010-11 Championship. Even though they won the league the week before all QPR fans had to hold their celebrations until the result of a hearing. The hearing itself was to discuss the possible illegal transfer of one of the QPR players, Alejandro Faurlín, which if found guilty could have resulted in a points deduction. Luckily for the Hoops, although they were found guilty the powers that be decided on only a heavy fine rather than a deduction of any points. With all of that legal confusion out of the way we can now look at QPR as a future Premier League team.

Rangers have undoubtedly been the best side in the Championship this term, and fully deserve their return to the Premier League after a 15-year absence. What will be really interesting to watch in regards to this team next season will be exactly how well they will fair against sides that are better, and indeed richer than they are.

The current squad is full of names that have been in and around the top two flights of English football for a while. Ultimately however, it would probably be better to describe the team as a collection of players that have failed to perform at Premier League level.

For example, one of QPR's main attacking threats this season has been Wayne Routledge. The young Englishman is pretty noticeable for his diminutive size yet considerable pace. However this is a man who has failed to show anything like his best in the Premier League, and he has in the past underperformed for Crystal Palace, Tottenham, Aston Villa and his most recent Premier League club Newcastle. The question will have to remain, until shown otherwise, will Routledge, and players like him such as Tommy Smith, Paddy Kenny and Fitz Hall (whose nickname of "one size" is maybe the best I've ever heard) be able to cope in the English top flight, a place where up to now at least they have failed.

> The last time Warnock managed a team in the Premier League, Sheffield United, they went straight back down within a year

This can ultimately be said of their much heralded manager, at least by himself and those in the media who like him, Neil Warnock. Warnock is one of those people in the public eye who can't help but split opinions; some love him whereas some really dislike him. Right now of course I'm sure most if not all QPR fans absolutely worship the ground he walks on, as he has been possibly the biggest contributing factor in the team achieving promotion.

And yet, I just don't know that he is the right man to keep QPR in the league. When the pressure is really put on, Warnock often reacts badly. If one were to start a list of players and other managers that he has had major disputes with, such as Gareth Southgate, Wally Downes and Nigel Worthington, you'd probably need a lot of time and paper to complete the task. Also, he seemingly lacks the managerial nous to succeed against top opposition.

The last time Warnock managed a team in the Premier League, Sheffield United, they went straight back down within a year, although it does have to be said that up until the last day of the season they looked like they would be safe. If we can use that as evidence then it has to be argued that too often his team lacked the tactical awareness and knowledge to compete at the top level. Instead, Warnock's teams rely on hard work, effort, and a general high level of teamwork to attain success. As teams like Wolves and Blackpool have shown, putting the effort in is all well and good, yet there is no substitute for quality, which to be frank I just cannot see Warnock enthusing his team with.

The other major talking point around QPR and their possible Premier League success, or indeed failure, centres on the best player in the Championship this year, club captain Adel Taarabt. The young Moroccan has been the beating heart of the Rangers side this term, and it would have been impossible for them to win the league without his goals and overall creativity. Firstly, it's unsure that he will still be a QPR player by next season, as rumours are already circulating about a possible move to Liverpool, perhaps even in exchange for Joe Cole. If QPR do manage to keep hold of him, something which I think they may just do, there is still a massive doubt as to how well he will do in the Premier League. Every step up in the quality of opposition you face presents newer, stiffer challenges for any player, especially one in the mould of a creative attacker like Taarabt. It remains to be seen how well he will cope against opposition who will look to totally nullify him and not allow him to control the game as he has done so many times this season in the Championship.

What QPR will have on their side in their struggle against relegation is that they do have some finances. The exact ownership of the club is still a little convoluted, yet whoever does own the London club certainly will be giving some money to Neil Warnock to spend. The Hoops definitely need some more defenders, which is a strange thing to say as they actually have the best defensive record in their league. Yet if one were to watch the goals they have been letting in recently, when they've been under real pressure to perform, then you would have to agree that a shakeup at the back is needed.

They will also need more goal-scorers, as they have heavily relied on Taarabt, who may not be there next season, Tommy Smith, who hardly scored in his years in the Premier League, and the aforementioned Wayne Routledge. A top forward that has scored goals in the Premier League, a rare commodity it has to be said, should be on the shopping list over the summer.

Ultimately much of anyone's judgement of QPR's Premier League potential is mere speculation. Yet anyone who watches English football knows what a big gulf in class there is between the bottom few in the Premier League and the real top English teams. If QPR can acquire a few more Premier League level players, keep hold of Taarabt, and if Warnock can outperform his previous efforts, then the Hoops do have a chance of survival next year. Yet as of now, I can't help but think that the ever increasing gap between the Championship and the Premier League may just be too big for the London side.



The Matildas

The Australian Matildas line up against New Zealand yesterday. The friendly was their last hit-out on home soil before departing for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2011 in Germany in June. The final score was 2-1 to the Aussies.
Back row: 14. 6. Servet UZUNLAR, Collette MCCALLUM, 23. Kim CARROLL, 15. Sally SHIPARD, 4. Clare POLKINGHORNE,
Fron row: 20. Catherine CANNULI, 16. Elise KELLOND-KNIGHT, 22. Sam KERR, 1. Melissa BARBIERI (gk)(c), 17. Kyah SIMON,, 24. Tameka BUTT.

PHOTO: PAUL LAU

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Photos: PAUL LAU

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Matildas win World Cup send off

By Ann Odong

IN their final match on home soil, the Westfield Matildas have defeated a gallant New Zealand outfit 2 - 1 in beautiful conditions at Bluetongue Stadium.

With a vocal crowd of 2,866 supporters on hand, a first half header from striker Catherine Cannuli and a trademark Collette McCallum second half free kick was enough to see off the challenge of their trans-tasman rivals despite Hannah Wilkinson's first half equaliser.

The Matildas entered the match strong favourites courtesy of a 3 – 0 mid-week win over their opponents and the Australians started confidently.

The home side looked to control proceedings early and, with the three-pronged attack of Cannuli, Kyah Simon and Samantha Kerr lively, it wasn't long before they capitalised on their dominance.

Released into space on the right flank, Kerr's in-swinging cross found the late run of Cannuli with the Sydney FC striker heading home neatly in just the 9th minute.

However, going behind early sparked the New Zealanders into action with Ria Percival, after spotting Melissa Barbieri off her line, looking to bring the Football Ferns level with her speculative 30 yard lob. Equal to the task, the Matildas' captain tipped the dangerous ball over the cross bar averting the threat.

Despite that, in the 26th minute New Zealand eventually equalised as winger Ali Riley produced a low stinging cross into a crowded penalty box. Wilkinson was quickest to react and tucked away the ball virtually on the goal mouth.

All square, the final minutes of the half saw a tense midfield tussle ensue and despite reasonable long range efforts from Tameka Butt, Kerr and Simon, the two sides went in even at the break.

The second half began much like the first with Australia gaining the midfield ascendancy through McCallum and Sally Shipard. But despite the possession, the Matildas' strike force were unable to get clear sights on Jenny Bindon's goal.

Ten minutes into the half, that changed when the ever active Butt earned a free kick after being fouled just inches outside the penalty area.

Barely 18 yards from goal, dead ball specialist McCallum calmly slotted the ball into the bottom left corner of Bindon's goal leaving the Fern's custodian flat footed.

Both sides continually in the half but neither were able to breakdown the other in an increasingly physical encounter leaving the Matildas to increase their winning streak against the New Zealanders to 21.

Westfield Matildas coach Tom Sermanni observed it was tough encounter. "We made eight changes to the team from our game on Thursday and when you do that you lose some of your fluidity and cohesion."

"I think we learned that some of our players are a little bit short of a gallop and need some more hardened match play."

"But the really good thing for today, despite all of that, is that we won the game," he said.

"When you are playing international football and getting ready for the World Cup, and you want the confidence of your team to remain high, that's an important aspect of the game."

Match Details

Westfield Matildas 2
(Catherine CANNULI 9', Collette MCCALLUM 55')
New Zealand 1
(Hannah WILKINSON 27')

Sunday, 15 May 2011
Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford
Local kick-off: 3.00pm AEST
Referee: Kate Jacewicz
Assistant referees: Allyson Flynn Airlie Keen
Fourth official: Peta McCallum
Crowd: 2,866

Westfield Matildas: 1. Melissa BARBIERI (gk)(c), 4. Clare POLKINGHORNE (2. Ellyse PERRY 64'), 6. Servet UZUNLAR, 14. Collette MCCALLUM (30. Emily VAN EGMOND 83'), 15. Sally SHIPARD, 16. Elise KELLOND-KNIGHT, 17. Kyah SIMON, 20. Catherine CANNULI (19. Leena KHAMIS 46'), 22. Sam KERR, 23. Kim CARROLL, 24. Tameka BUTT

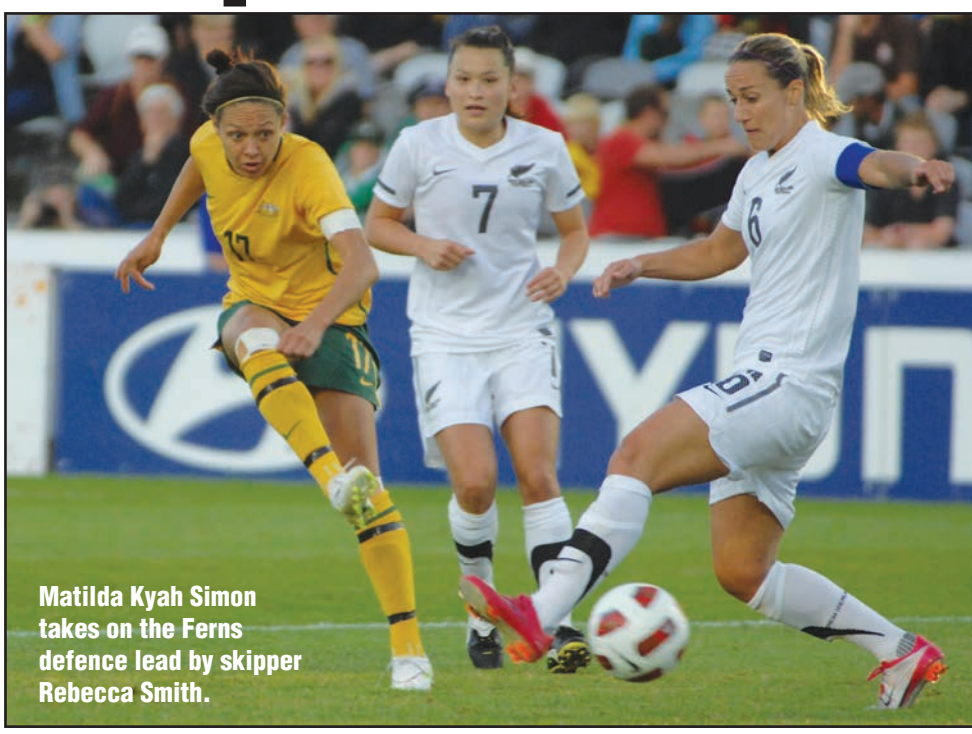
Substitutes not used: 5. Lauren COLTHORPE, 7. Heather GARRIOCK, 10. Kylie LEDBROOK, 18. Lydia WILLIAMS, 25. Casey DUMONT, 26. Laura ALLEWAY, 27. Aivi LUIK, 28. Teigan ALLEN, 29. Caitlin FOORD

Yellow Cards: Sally Shipard 45+1', Kyah Simon 77'
Red Cards: Nil

New Zealand: 1. Jenny BINDON (gk), Ria PERCIVAL (11. Kirsty YALLOP 67'), 3. Anna GREEN, 4. Katie HOYLE, 5. Abby ERCEG, 6. Rebecca SMITH (c), 7. Ali RILEY, 9. Amber HEARN, 12. Betsy HASSETT, 13. Rosie WHITE (14. Sarah MCLAUGHLIN 87'), 17. Hannah WILKINSON (15. Emma KETE 66')

Substitutes not used: 8. Hayley MOORWOOD, 10. Sarah GREGORIUS, 16. Hannah WALL, 18. Katie BOWEN, 19. Olivia CHANCE, Aroon CLANSEY (gk), 21. Hannah BROMLEY

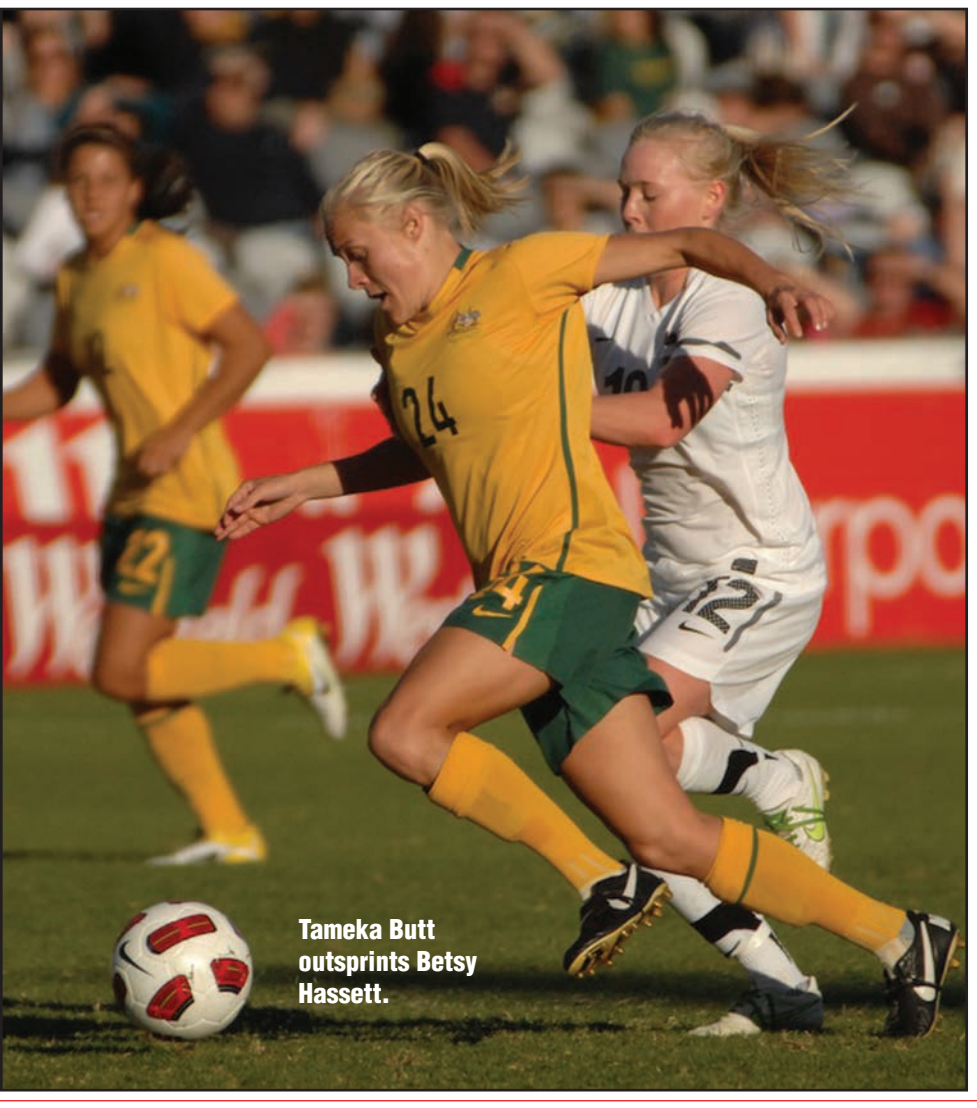
Yellow Cards: Katie Hoyle 48'
Red Cards: Nil



Matilda Kyah Simon takes on the Ferns defence lead by skipper Rebecca Smith.



Kyah Simon lets Anna Green know there's no love lost between the two Trans Tasman teams, much to the ire of the Ferns' bench.



Tameka Butt outsprints Betsy Hassett.



Sally Shipard closes down Rebecca Smith.

goal! Weekly

LONDON CALLING





With Leroy Robinson in the UK

The North-South Divide isn't So Wide



Code Red: Forget about the onfield performances, West Ham United and Wigan Athletic are facing a monumental task of balancing the books and keeping Miss Moneypenny happy.

On a weekend when the Manchester's of United and City won the league and FA Cup respectively, you'd be forgiven if London Calling didn't change it's name in homage to the Mancunian ones. However, on this historical weekend of football, matters near the foot of the league table are far more riveting.

Wigan take on West Ham, in what would have been the game of the weekend, had Wolves and Blackpool not spoilt things by winning. Now it looks highly likely that both clubs will be relegated from the Premier League.

There are huge contrasts between the two clubs. There's West Ham, a historic East London club, who boasted such greats as Bobby Moore, Rio Ferdinand and Marco Boogers (Google him!) and Wigan, who, for the first time ever, were promoted to the top flight in 2005, and have remained ever since. That's not where the contrasts end. According to espn.soccernet, West Ham's average crowd in the league this season is 33,464, and Wigan's is almost exactly half that, at 16,521.

Wigan would not be much of a loss from the Premier League, not with those crowds. But merit, rather than sentiment, dictates that both of these clubs will most likely go down, probably along with Blackpool. Leaving aside attendance and tradition these two clubs from north and south of the country have a lot more in common. Both are in the crap financially.

Where Did It All Go Wrong?

Wigan are a small club, and simple economics dictate that they have to sell their best players. They sold Antonio Valencia and Wilson Palacios and have not replaced either. Their real problem has been scoring goals and the arrival of Mauro Boselli (£6m from Estudiantes) has done nothing to help. He played seven times for Wigan without scoring, and was loaned to Genoa, where he's scored two in five. Quite frankly, Charles N'Zogbia aside, Roberto Martinez hasn't got the weapons from midfield to provide assists for the men in attack. And, with signings like Boselli and Victor Moses, its no surprise they cannot round off their pretty approach-play with goals.

West Ham could be accused of being a larger version of Wigan. Over the years they've sold their best players, whilst being able to produce quality replacements. For the last few years, the quality of player coming through the academy had dried up. Add to that some poor signings and they'll be an exodus at West Ham come the off-season. The thing is, West Ham don't have that bad a team. When fit, it is made up of four England internationals: Scott Parker, Matthew Upson, Robert Green and Carlton Cole. As usually happens, these players will be the first out of the door come the summer. There's something to be said for them staying and proving themselves, but the club need the money, and the players don't need lower division football.

Wigan and West Ham: Birds of a Feather

But what they have in common more than anything else is their financial state. Like most Premier League clubs, these two are making a bucket-load of money in one hand and spending it twice as quickly with the other. Last week, David Gold, West Ham Co-Owner, was speaking about the cost of relegation.

"The fans should know this club is in a worse financial position than any other in the country," Sullivan told the Evening Standard last week. ***"All the debts are football or bank debts secured on the stadium and training ground so there is no route via administration. West Ham really is a club where the football and bank debts exceed the value of the club."***

Think about this. If the banks call in the loans, they can sell the club's assets to developers, and where would West Ham be? No wonder they want to move to the Olympic Stadium! No wonder they needed a loan to do it!

"It's a pretty thankless task and the criticism hurts," added Sullivan. ***"Should the worst [relegation] happen, we will have to inject loans of £20m-£40m, depending on circumstances, which will probably never be repaid. I don't believe the supporters realise the potential real cost to us.***

Dave Whelan, Chairman of Wigan Athletic, was on the BBC programme Lord Sugar Tackles Football, an investigation into the business side of football. It didn't tell me anything new, but I did learn one thing: that there will not be a salary cap in football. Clubs are too divided on the issue. To his credit Whelan, who guided Wigan through all four professional divisions, has been trying to gather clubs together to come to some sort of agreement on the maximum wage for players.

"Wigan' Athletics' debt," he said on the show, ***"at present is running at around £70m..that is basically debt to me."*** Whelan did not hesitate when asked what was the biggest problem facing football. ***"The big problem is wages,"*** he said. ***"We're paying too much in wages."***

Again, nothing new. However, it wasn't the first-team players Whelan was specifically grumbling about. Some squad players at Wigan are paid the same as first team players. Essentially, there are players at his club that are happy not playing, as long as they collect their 10, 20, 30,000 a week.

His approach to tackling the problem was novel. Interestingly enough, he had a regional meeting with other smaller clubs, such as Bolton. Blackburn and Wolves to propose a salary cap, applicable to those clubs only. These types of cartels are great when they happen between clubs with one common goal, in this case to stay in the league, but naturally fall apart if one of them is taken over by a Russian oligarch or when two clubs are after the same player.

No Sympathy

Before you pull out a tissue, think about this: What are these clubs trying to do to put this right? Are they promoting more youth team players? Are they imposing wage caps on the squad? Why don't clubs just take unilateral action? What they are doing is more of the same things that got them into debt, buying squad players on silly wages. Why not take steps to improve the coaching, training and technique of players at the academy? Why have a garden with vegetable patch if you're going to buy vegetables at the supermarket?

You know the funny thing? People say football is a business but some clubs, like Wigan and West Ham, are being run on charity from the owners or by using bank loans. Another mantra that cracks up me is the saying "no-one is bigger than the club". If a football club is so important why don't they start by only paying players wages that wont mean having to get bank loans or charity from owners. Why not run it like a business? Earlier this season Man Utd bent over backwards to give Rooney a wage increase, despite his request for a transfer. The best thing United could have done was tell him where to go, that he wasn't bigger than the club. Players are employees of the club, important employees, but employees nonetheless.

I know it sounds very simplistic, to have a ceiling on wages. One that is at a level that does not stretch debts. But Arsenal have this policy. The best thing West Ham and Wigan can do is get rid of their highest paid players. As good as Scott Parker has been, he hasn't helped them stay up. Cole, Upson and Robert Green haven't either. Why not use relegation to start afresh, and put more youth team players in the squad, on a fraction of the wages? The bottom line is, if you're gong to be shit, why not have a low wage bill?

Who Gets The Blame?

Blaming coaches, players and agents wont wash. Coaches and players are employees and have a career to think about, so I have no problem with them getting paid as much as clubs are willing to pay. As for agents, some people have this notion that players are inanimate objects, at the mercy of unscrupulous agents. Agents who want to move them from club to club like chess pieces, - so the agent can pick up a fee. Read my lips. *The agents work for the players, not vice versa.* Are there rotten agents? Yes. Just like there are rotten players, players who get paid regardless of how little effort they give on the pitch. That's life. But to lay the blame at the agent's door, when it s the clubs who have the right to say no to wage demands, is passing the buck.

Its time the clubs stood up and imposed their own salary restrictions, based on their debts and ability to pay. Wigan and West Ham have a chance to start afresh by playing youth team players. It will be painful at first, but add a few quality signings on low wages et viola, you get a club like Norwich City, who have just been promoted to the Premier League.

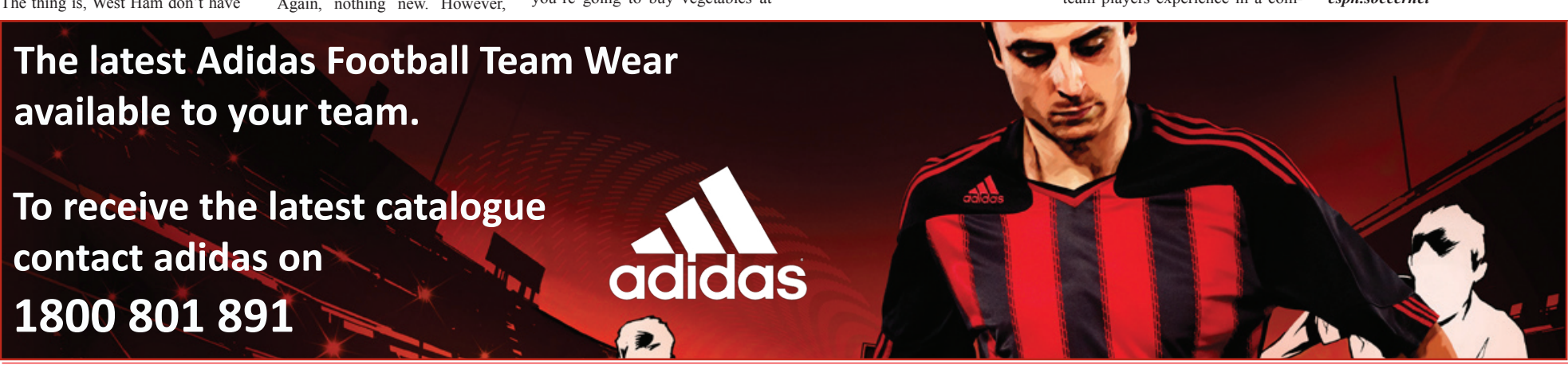
The other solution would be for reserve teams to be allowed into the league, as happens in Germany and Spain. This would give reserve team players experience in a competitive environment. To help clubs cut costs, it is also time to have regional leagues for the lower tiers, as happens in Germany. Don't think this will happen any time soon so until then, it is up to the clubs to put a rein on player's wages, which is a bit like asking a fat child to run a sweet shop.

Mancini Chooses The Easy Option

Congratulations to Man City for winning their first trophy since time began.

However, why does Roberto Mancini persist in starting Adam Johnson on the bench, as he did in the FA Cup Final? Johnson and David Silva are two of the better dribblers in the league. They commit players and have been amongst City's top offensive performers. My theory is that Mancini too often has taken the easy option of dropping Johnson to make way for the bigger stars. Johnson, as a young player, wont cause much of a fuss, unlike some of the other, more established performers. Well done City. You've proved you can buy an FA Cup, now its time for bigger things. Beware, as Chelsea have proved, big signings do not always produce a team that can win the UCL.

Sources:
The Guardian
espn.soccernet



LIAM CANNELL

St Albans Saint FC

FULL NAME: Liam Stuart Cannell
BIRTHPLACE: Moonee Ponds
BIRTH DATE: 18/02/1988
HEIGHT: 180cm
WEIGHT: 75kg
MARRIED: Single
CAR: 1994 Toyota Camry
NICKNAME: Leemo
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Melbourne Knights, Keilor Park, Green Gully
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: 2005 Victorian Schoolboys, Victorian Talent Identification Program 2005
INDIVIDUAL HONOURS: Nones
TEAM HONOURS: 2008 and 2010 Aust-Cro Soccer Tournament Champions – St Albans Saints and Melbourne Knights
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: David Beckham & My Father
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: David Beckham
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Archie Thompson
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Mark Viduka
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Tim Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: My VPL Debut vs Heidelberg away and winning 1-0.
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Leeds United vs Tottenham Hotspur at Elland Road 2000, Leeds won 4-2 and 2006 A-League Grand Final Melbourne Victory vs Adelaide United 6-0
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: Any goal from over 30 yards
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Being Team mascot for Westvale Olympic in the 90s
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Being apart of the Melbourne Knights changeroom in 07/08
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Missing 2 penalties in the same game against Northcote last year
WORST INJURY: Torn ligaments in my ankle
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Graham Hockless
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Knights Stadium
SUPERSTITIONS: Put my left shinpad on first
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Eggs on toast and spaghetti bolognaise
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Shooting, Passing, Stamina, Pace, Set Pieces
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Ball watching, Work rate (sometimes), Girls
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Leeds United
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Golf, Basketball, Cricket
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Kobe Bryant
FAVOURITE FOODS: Italian and Mexican
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Will Ferrell
HOBBIES: Playing golf, Playstation 3, Travelling, Beach
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Far Out Beach Club Ios
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: CQ
IDEAL DATE: Eating take away pizza and enjoying a beer while watching the soccer.
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Family Guy, South Park, Breaking Bad
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Punk Rock
FAVOURITE FILM: Inception
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Leeds United
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: That I purposely got myself sent off
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My Dad
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Pre-seasons and cold winter nights
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To play professionally
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : David Beckham
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: Brisbane Roar
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S VPL: Dandenong Thunder

PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Manchester's double delight!



Euro Wrap

Alex Luttrell

Well, what a Saturday it was in England this week, more specifically the city of Manchester. Despite the intense rivalry between the two, the red and blue of Manchester joined forces to prove that they are the best teams in England for the 2010-2011 season.

However, United overshadowed City's drought breaking search for a trophy in the F.A. Cup final, winning their 19th title and becoming the most successful club in English league history.

Manchester United travelled to Ewood Park with the hope of becoming the ultimate conqueror of English football, just by getting a point against league strugglers, Blackburn. United managed to do this through, who else but star striker Wayne Rooney's penalty expertise.

However, it did not all go to plan for United, with Australian Brett Emerton finding himself free at the back post of the reds' defence and putting Blackburn ahead in the 20th minute.

The game was a constant battle for supremacy, but for different reasons: Blackburn, to stay of the relegation zone and United to become the best team in English history, making the game intense, passionate and persistently entertaining.



Man U win the title and City take home the Cup



The moment of truth for United and their fans, and all they have strived towards came in the 73rd minute. Javier Hernandez was brought down by Blackburn keeper Paul Robinson in the box, meaning it was Rooney who could put United in the English football history books.

Rooney sent Robinson the wrong way and roosted the penalty home, tucking it bottom left propelling them to the summit of English football.

When the final whistle sounded, the Reds united in a huddle on the pitch, substitutes charged onto the ground with their legendary coach Sir Alex Ferguson and celebrated with their fans. They shouted chants of "Are you watching, Merseyside?" to their Liverpool rivals, whom they overtook to become the best English club with 19 league championships for United and 18 for Liverpool.

Overall, the tally stands at 59 trophies for United and 58 for Liverpool and club legends Ryan Giggs and his loyal coach in Sir Alex have managed to contribute to 12 of these titles together since 1993.

This epitomises United's passion for football and titles, but also their loyalty towards each other in their perseverance and determination to become the best team in England.

FA Cup

On Saturday, the only team that could possibly take the glory from United were their city rivals: Manchester City, who went into the F.A. Cup final against Stoke City hoping to win their first title in 35 years, and a solitary Yaya Toure goal made this come to fruition.

City probably went into the game hoping United would have to wait another week before clinching the title so that they could take the trophy honours of the night, but this was not to be as United became the most dominant club in England prior to the kick off of City's F.A. Cup encounter with Stoke City.

But, City's performance at Wembley takes a lot of the attention off their city rivals' league championship success all the football eyes of England look towards the red and blue of Manchester.

Roberto Mancini's side went into the match as heavy favourites, but it took 74 minutes for the sky blues to hammer home the winner, courtesy of a sublime Yaya Toure strike.

City dominated large patches of the game, with Stoke coming close to scoring, but like United's game, it was an intense and constant tussle for supremacy and the F.A Cup.

However, the win caps off a successful year for City and Mancini, who aimed for and achieved a top four finish, and have now won their first piece of silverware since 1976.

Results

Barclays Premier League
Blackburn 1-1 Man Utd (Man Utd are champions)
Blackpool 4-3 Bolton
Sunderland 1-3 Wolverhampton
West Brom 1-0 Everton

The FA Cup
Man City 1-0 Stoke

Npower League One
Bournemouth 1-1 Huddersfield

Npower League Two
Torquay 2-0 Shrewsbury

Clydesdale Bank Premier League
Hamilton 1-2 Inverness CT
Hibernian 1-3 Aberdeen
St Mirren 0-0 St Johnstone

Scottish First Division
Ayr 3-3 Forfar (agg 7-4)
Cowdenbeath 0-2 Brechin (agg 2-4)

Scottish Second Division
Albion 2-0 Queen's Park (agg 3-1)
Alloa 0-0 Annan Athletic (agg 1-2)

Scot-Ads Highland Football League
Formartine Utd 2-4 Clachnacuddin
Lossiemouth 0-5 Wick Academy

Npower Championship
Reading 0-0 Cardiff

League of Ireland Premier Division
Bray 2-1 UCD
Drogheda Utd 0-3 Sligo
Galway Utd 0-2 Bohemians

EPL

	P	GD	Pts
1 Man Utd	37	39	77
2 Chelsea	36	37	70
3 Arsenal	36	30	67
4 Man City	36	22	65
5 Liverpool	36	18	58
6 Tottenham	36	6	56
7 Everton	37	5	51
8 Stoke	36	2	46
9 Bolton	37	-2	46
10 West Brom	37	-15	46
11 Fulham	36	4	45
12 Newcastle	36	-1	44
13 Sunderland	37	-14	44
14 Aston Villa	36	-13	42
15 Blackburn	37	-14	40
16 Wolves	37	-19	40
17 Birmingham	36	-18	39
18 Blackpool	37	-21	39
19 Wigan	36	-23	36
20 West Ham	36	-23	33

Bundesliga

	P	GD	Pts
1 Borussia Dortmund (C)	34	45	75
2 Bayer Leverkusen	34	20	68
3 Bayern Munich	34	41	65
4 Hannover 96	34	4	60
5 Mainz	34	13	58
6 Nuremberg	34	2	47
7 FC Kaiserslautern	34	-3	46
8 Hamburg	34	-6	45
9 SC Freiburg	34	-9	44
10 Cologne	34	-15	44
11 TSG Hoffenheim	34	0	43
12 VfB Stuttgart	34	1	42
13 Werder Bremen	34	-14	41
14 Schalke 04	34	-6	40
15 Wolfsburg	34	-5	38
16 Borussia M'gladbach	34	-17	36
17 Eintracht Frankfurt (R)	34	-18	34
18 St Pauli (R)	34	-33	29

Bayern Munich 2-1 VfB Stuttgart
Borussia Dortmund 3-1 Eintracht Frankfurt
Cologne 2-1 Schalke 04
FC Kaiserslautern 3-2 Werder Bremen
Hamburg 1-1 Borussia M'gladbach
Hannover 96 3-1 Nuremberg
Mainz 2-1 St Pauli
SC Freiburg 0-1 Bayer Leverkusen
TSG Hoffenheim 1-3 Wolfsburg

SPL

	P	GD	Pts
1 Rangers	37	55	90
2 Celtic	37	59	89
3 Hearts	37	9	63
4 Dundee Utd	37	4	58
6 Kilmarnock	37	2	49
7 Motherwell	37	-16	46
5 Inverness CT	38	8	53
8 St Johnstone	38	-20	44
9 Aberdeen	38	-20	38
10 Hibernian	38	-22	37
11 St Mirren	38	-24	33
12 Hamilton	38	-35	26

Serie A

	P	GD	Pts
1 AC Milan (C)	37	41	81
2 Inter Milan	36	25	72
3 Napoli	36	20	68
4 Lazio	37	14	63
5 Udinese	36	20	62
6 Roma	36	6	60
7 Juventus	36	11	57
8 Palermo	36	-4	53
9 Fiorentina	36	5	49
10 Genoa	37	-3	48
11 Cagliari	37	-7	44
12 Chievo	36	-2	43
13 Catania	36	-11	43
14 Parma	36	-9	42
15 Bologna	36	-13	41
16 Cesena	36	-12	40
17 Lecce	36	-20	38
18 Sampdoria	36	-13	36
19 Brescia	36	-17	31
20 Bari	36	-31	21

AC Milan 4-1 Cagliari
Lazio 4-2 Genoa

Playing overnight
Fiorentina v Bologna
Bari v Lecce
Catania v Roma
Cesena v Brescia
Chievo v Udinese
Parma v Juventus

Asian Scene with Daniel Iaconis

Japan

Shimzu S-Pulse's poor start to the season continued on Saturday after they were smashed 5-1 by fifth placed Vissel Kobe with Yoshito Okubo and Ken Tokura both scoring a brace for the visitors.

Australians Alex Brosque and Eddy Bosnar both picked up yellows in their sides capitulation in front of a crowd of 14,350.

Elsewhere on Saturday Kashiwa Reysol continued their impressive form recording a resounding 3-0 win away to Albirex Niigata, Vegalta Sendai threw away a 2-0 half-time lead to draw 3-3 draw at home to Jubilo Iwata, Montedio Yamagata suffered a 1-0 home loss to Omiya Ardija while Sanfrecce Hiroshima held on at home to record a 3-2 win over Yokohama to retain second place.

Korea

Chunnam Dragons jumped into fourth place with a 2-0 home win against struggling Daejeon Citizen. The home side took the lead in the 68th minute thanks to a Young-Jun Shin goal and Columbian Javier Reina scored the second goal in the 89th minute to ensure the Dragons took all three points.

Lowly Gangwon suffered yet another home loss, this time a 1-0 loss at the hands of Gwangju courtesy of a Dong-Sub Kim goal in the 23rd minute.



Alex Brosque was on the end of a spanking in Japan on the weekend.



Comets flying high and consolidate

By Niki Cook

Round 7 of the Victorian Women's Premier League saw Casey Comets consolidate its position at the top of the ladder, courtesy of its sixth win of the season. Sandringham holds on to second place despite not playing until Monday, with a big win for South Melbourne Women's helping it cement third place. Bundoora is fourth after a mixed round produced a win and a loss, with Ashburton and Heidelberg United also enjoying victories during the weekend.

Bundoora United arrested its recent run of losses in the round's midweek match, defeating the Emerging Athlete Program 3-1 at DISC on Wednesday night. After a goalless first half, Melissa Missailidis broke the deadlock twelve minutes into the second period to give Bundoora the lead. The bulk of the action was reserved for the closing stages of the game, with the remaining three goals coming in the last fifteen minutes of the game. Bianca Ortika put the EAP back in the game when she equalised in the 75th minute, but Enza Barilla restored United's advantage seven minutes later. Theresa Borges made certain of the points for Bundoora, scoring her team's third in the fourth minute of stoppage time. The defeat was the EAP's third in as many games, and it has won just once in its last five matches. It drops another place on the ladder to eighth.

Ashburton returned to the winners' list on Friday night, when it saw off Doncaster Rovers 2-1 at Anderson Park. In contrast to Wednesday night's match, this time all the action came in the first half, with all three goals being scored before the interval. Ashburton has enjoyed a mini-resurgence in recent weeks, with two of its three victories coming in its last three matches. It leapfrogs the EAP to sit seventh on the ladder with ten points from eight games. Doncaster's sixth defeat of the season keeps it at the bottom of the table, with four points.

Heidelberg United bounced back from a heavy defeat on Monday night to see off Altona City 2-1 at HC Kim Reserve on Sunday. United had been soundly beaten 4-0 by Sandringham on Monday, and it left it very late to claim the points in this game. The match appeared destined for a draw, before two goals in quick succession in the 84th and 86th minutes from Melanie Camilleri and Elise Kyrgios gave the visitor an unassailable lead. Altona struck back in the 90th minute through Katia Tavolaro, but ran out of time to find an equaliser. The result lifts United to fifth on the ladder, with four victories and a draw in its seven games. Altona remains tenth, following its fifth defeat of the season, a loss that ended its mini-revival which had seen it pick up four points in its last two games.

South Melbourne Women's produced its second big win in three matches, and made it four consecutive victories in the process, as it dispatched VCL Country 7-0 at DISC on Sunday. Laura Spiranovic had a day out in front of goal, scoring four times, to take her personal tally to eight in the past three games alone and ten for the season. She opened the scoring in the sixth minute, with Jolene Miller doubling the advantage ten minutes later. Only trailing by two goals at the interval, VCL Country was still in the game, but South dominated the second half. Helina Vunderl-Messis scored the visitor's third just after the interval, with Spiranovic and Miller both grabbing their second goals of the game in quick succession midway through the half. Spiranovic added a further two goals in the last five minutes of the game to wrap up South's second 7-0 triumph of the campaign. It remains third on the ladder, while Country's third successive defeat leaves it ninth with six points.

Casey Comets continued its impressive run, with its 3-0 defeat of Bundoora United at Comets Stadium making it six consecutive victories. It hasn't dropped a point since Round 2, and it ends the weekend four points clear at the top of the table. Goals from Melissa Atherton and Taryn Brown helped the home side to a 2-0 half time lead, with Atherton adding a third after the break to make sure of the points.

Bundoora has found it tough in front of goal of late, having been held goalless in three of its last four matches, and losing those three matches as a consequence. After sharing top spot on the ladder a few weeks ago, United now finds itself fourth, with thirteen points from eight matches.

The final match of the round took place on Monday night, with Sandringham looking to close the gap on Casey when it hosted Box Hill United at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex.

Heidelberg United and the EAP get the Round 8 action started on Wednesday night when they meet at DISC in this week's midweek fixture. Box Hill United will have a short recovery following its Monday night match, as it hosts Ashburton at Wembley Park on Friday night. Saturday afternoon sees Bundoora United take on Sandringham at Hillsview Recreation Reserve, while at Paisley Park later that evening, South Melbourne Women's and Altona City face off. On Sunday VCL Country and Doncaster Rovers will meet at a yet to be confirmed venue, with Heidelberg United and Casey Comets clashing at Olympic Village in the final match of the round.



Aleisha Piper (Casey) tries to outpace Rachel Alonso (Bundoora) in the middle of the park. Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY



Lucrece Laverdure (Bundoora) attempts to get her cross in as Natalie Grubic (Casey) is on a mission to close down the danger. Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY

WPL RESULTS

Doncaster Rovers 1
Ashburton 2

Altona City 1
Heidelberg Utd 2

VCL Country 0
South Melbourne Womens FC 7

Casey Comets 3
(M Atherton 2 T- Brown)
Bundoora Utd 0

Res:
Doncaster Rovers 1
Ashburton 6, Altona City 4
Heidelberg Utd 3, Casey Comets 0 Bundoora Utd 0

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Casey Comets	8	6	1	1	21	7	19
Sandringham	7	5	0	2	22	7	15
South Melb	7	4	2	1	19	4	14
Bundoora Utd	8	4	1	3	13	9	13
Heidelberg Utd	7	4	1	2	11	10	13
Box Hill Utd	7	3	2	2	13	12	11
Ashburton	8	3	1	4	12	17	10
Emerging Ath	7	3	0	4	14	17	9
VCL Country	8	2	0	6	10	22	6
Altona City	7	1	1	5	7	18	4

WPL Next Round

Emerging Athlete v Heidelberg Utd
DISC - Pitch 1
Wed 18 May KO 7:30PM

Box Hill United v Ashburton
Wembley Park
Fri 20 May KO 8:30PM

Bundoora Utd v Sandringham SC
Hills Recreational Res
Sat 21 May KO 2:00PM

South Melbourne v Altona City
Paisley Park Soccer Complex
Sat 21 May KO 7:30PM

VCL Country v Doncaster Rovers
To Be Confirmed
Sun 22 May KO 1:00PM

Heidelberg Utd v Casey Comets
Olympic Village
Sun 22 May KO 1:00PM

WPL RESERVES LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill Utd	5	5	0	0	30	5	15
South Melb	6	3	2	1	17	9	11
Bundoora Utd	7	3	2	2	8	9	11
Sandringham	5	3	1	1	9	3	10
Ashburton	6	3	0	3	17	12	9
Altona City	6	2	2	2	7	16	8
Casey Comets	6	2	1	3	14	12	7
Heidelberg Utd	6	0	2	4	4	17	2
Doncaster R	7	0	2	5	6	29	2
Emerging Ath	0				0	0	0
VCL Country	0				0	0	0

Results & Ladders

Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 06

Seniors — STATE NORTH WEST 2 — Reserves

Whittlesea Ranges FC 0 Ballarat Red Devils 0, Altona East Phoenix Banyule City , Brunswick City Altona City , FC Clifton Hill 1 Werribee City 1, Moreland City 2 (L Kelly S Wade) Williamstown 1, Westgate 2 (A Jovicic K Otuo-Acheampong) Geelong 0

Whittlesea Ranges FC 3 (M Lihari D Giogha K Samuel) Ballarat Red Devils 1, Altona East Phoenix Banyule City , Brunswick City Altona City , FC Clifton Hill Werribee City ,

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moreland City	6	6	0	0	25	6	18
Whittlesea Ranges FC	6	4	2	0	11	3	14
Werribee City	6	5	1	0	12	3	13
FC Clifton Hill	6	3	2	1	8	4	8
Ballarat Red Devils	6	2	2	2	8	10	8
Westgate	5	3	0	2	9	8	6
Altona East Phoenix	6	1	2	3	9	12	4
Geelong	6	1	1	4	9	18	4
Brunswick City	6	1	3	2	6	9	2
Williamstown	5	0	2	3	2	10	2
Altona City	6	0	2	4	4	10	1
Banyule City	6	0	1	5	2	12	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Altona East Phoenix	6	4	1	1	11	7	12
FC Clifton Hill	6	3	3	0	11	5	11
Werribee City	6	3	2	1	8	7	10
Moreland City	5	3	0	2	23	10	9
Brunswick City	6	3	1	2	10	8	9
Whittlesea Ranges FC	6	2	2	2	12	11	8
Williamstown	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Ballarat Red Devils	6	2	1	3	7	11	7
Banyule City	6	2	1	3	8	11	6
Westgate	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Geelong	5	0	1	4	4	13	1
Altona City	6	0	2	4	5	17	1

Seniors — STATE SOUTH EAST 2 — Reserves

Eastern Lions 0 Casey Comets 1 (D Terek), Diamond Valley Utd 2 Morwell Pegasus 1, Heatherton Utd 0 Dandenong City 2, Noble Park Utd 2 Doncaster Rovers 0, Box Hill United 4 (N Kokolakis 2 J Kim M Waters) Knox City 0, Malvern City 4 (G Kotsiris 2 J Hamzi C Pain) South Springvale 1

Eastern Lions 1 Casey Comets 0, Diamond Valley Utd 4 Morwell Pegasus 3, Heatherton Utd Dandenong City , Noble Park Utd 3 Doncaster Rovers 3, Box Hill United 2 Knox City 0, Malvern City 2 South Springvale 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Dandenong City	6	5	0	1	14	7	15
Eastern Lions	6	4	1	1	12	6	13
Diamond Valley Utd	6	3	3	0	15	11	12
Casey Comets	6	3	1	2	11	5	10
Box Hill United	6	2	3	1	11	4	9
Malvern City	6	3	0	3	15	14	9
Noble Park Utd	6	2	1	3	7	10	7
South Springvale	6	2	1	3	7	12	7
Morwell Pegasus	6	2	0	4	9	11	6
Heatherton Utd	6	2	0	4	8	14	6
Doncaster Rovers	6	1	1	4	7	12	4
Knox City	6	1	1	4	6	16	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Eastern Lions	6	3	3	0	11	8	12
Knox City	6	3	1	2	15	10	10
Noble Park Utd	6	3	1	2	14	11	10
South Springvale	6	3	1	2	10	8	10
Box Hill United	6	2	3	1	9	8	9
Diamond Valley Utd	6	3	0	3	12	16	9
Casey Comets	6	2	2	2	12	6	8
Doncaster Rovers	6	2	2	2	12	10	8
Dandenong City	6	2	2	2	5	8	7
Malvern City	6	1	2	3	12	13	5
Morwell Pegasus	6	1	2	3	14	19	5
Heatherton Utd	6	1	1	4	8	17	3

Seniors — STATE NORTH WEST 3 — Reserves

Keilor Park 2 (G Mussel S Mussel) Whittlesea Utd 0, La Trobe University 3 (D Mitric L Lavalle C Pham) Geelong Rangers 0, Maribyrnong Greens 2 Hume Utd 2 (J Sehic E Koc), Sunbury Utd 2 (M Filipovic D Gray) Cairnlea 3 (A Alicevic F Tijani O Mustafa), Yarraville Glory 1 Avondale Heights 2, Melbourne University 1 (M Sani) Sydenham Park 4

Keilor Park 2 (J Porter D Ottelli) Whittlesea Utd 1, La Trobe University 3 (F Doney M Venditti P Natsis) Geelong Rangers 0, Maribyrnong Greens Hume Utd , Sunbury Utd 3 (SR McLelland S Huisman J Moody) Cairnlea 0, Yarraville Glory 1 Avondale Heights 1, Melbourne University 3 (M Rathjen A Ng 2) Sydenham Park 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keilor Park	6	4	2	0	9	2	14
Sydenham Park	6	4	0	2	15	10	12
Avondale Heights	6	3	2	1	11	8	11
Cairnlea	6	3	2	1	8	6	11
Melbourne University	6	3	1	2	10	8	10
La Trobe University	6	2	1	3	8	8	7
Yarraville Glory	6	2	1	3	5	7	7
Whittlesea Utd	6	2	1	3	6	9	7
Sunbury Utd	6	2	0	4	8	10	6
Geelong Rangers	6	1	3	2	10	14	6
Hume Utd	6	1	2	3	8	10	5
Maribyrnong Greens	6	1	1	4	10	16	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keilor Park	6	4	1	1	28	8	13
La Trobe University	6	4	1	1	17	10	13
Sunbury Utd	6	3	3	0	17	6	12
Whittlesea Utd	6	3	1	2	18	7	10
Avondale Heights	6	3	1	2	15	9	10
Yarraville Glory	6	3	1	2	16	19	10
Cairnlea	6	3	0	3	13	17	9
Sydenham Park	6	2	1	3	12	15	7
Melbourne University	6	1	1	4	7	11	4
Maribyrnong Greens	6	1	2	3	11	20	4
Hume Utd	6	1	2	3	8	25	4
Geelong Rangers	6	1	0	5	3	18	3

Seniors — STATE SOUTH EAST 3 — Reserves

Fitzroy City 6 Frankston Pines 1, Peninsula Strikers 0 Doveton 7, Nunawading City FC 2 Waverley Wanderers 2, Old Scotch 1 Kingston City 1, Mornington 3 (M Morris-Thomas 2 C Stewart) Berwick City 0

Res: Fitzroy City 3 Frankston Pines 2, Peninsula Strikers 0 Doveton 2, Nunawading City FC 3 Waverley Wanderers 3, Old Scotch 2 Kingston City 3, Mornington 6 Berwick City 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Kingston City	6	4	2	0	14	3	14
Old Scotch	6	4	1	1	12	8	13
Mornington	6	4	0	2	19	7	12
Fitzroy City	6	4	0	2	12	9	12
North Caulfield	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Doveton	5	2	1	2	5	4	7
Peninsula Strikers	5	1	3	1	11	13	6
Berwick City	6	2	0	4	8	13	6
Nunawading City FC	6	1	3	2	7	12	6
Waverley Wanderers	6	1	2	3	9	8	5
Croydon City Arrows	5	1	0	4	8	12	3
Frankston Pines	6	0	2	4	8	26	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Kingston City	6	6	0	0	18	6	18
Old Scotch	6	5	0	1	17	9	15
Fitzroy City	6	4	1	1	12	11	13
Mornington	6	3	0	3	16	13	9
Berwick City	6	3	0	3	13	15	9
Waverley Wanderers	6	2	2	2	15	16	8
Croydon City Arrows	5	2	1	2	15	9	7
North Caulfield	5	2	1	2	12	11	7
Doveton	5	1	1	3	6	9	4
Peninsula Strikers	5	1	1	3	6	10	4
Nunawading City FC	6	1	1	4	14	20	4
Frankston Pines	6	0	0	6	7	22	0

Seniors — PROVI 1 NORTH WEST — Reserves

North City Lions 0 Corio 4 (V Stojanovic 2 M Marinovic 2), North Sunshine Eagles 5 Laverton Park 1, Western Eagles 4 FC Strathmore 1, Westvale 2 Sporting Whittlesea FC 0, Essendon Utd 1 Northern Falcons 2 (A Pizzo J Bogle), Surf Coast 1 South Yarra 2

Res: North City Lions 1 (D Grima) Corio 2, North Sunshine Eagles 7 Laverton Park 0, Western Eagles 0 FC Strathmore 4, Westvale 1 Sporting Whittlesea FC 0, Essendon Utd 2 Northern Falcons 3, Surf Coast 0 South Yarra 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Corio	6	5	0	1	18	10	15
North Sunshine Eagles	6	3	2	1	15	8	11
South Yarra	6	3	1	2	9	9	10
Western Eagles	6	3	0	3	14	10	9
Westvale	6	2	3	1	10	6	9
Northern Falcons	6	3	0	3	8	13	9
Laverton Park	6	2	2	2	9	11	8
North City Lions	6	2	1	3	11	14	7
Sporting Whittlesea FC	6	2	1	3	7	10	7
FC Strathmore	6	1	3	2	12	16	6
Surf Coast	6	1	2	3	9	13	5
Essendon Utd	6	1	1	4	8	10	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South Yarra	6	6	0	0	15	3	18
North Sunshine Eagles	6	5	1	0	24	8	16
Surf Coast	6	3	1	2	10	8	10
Westvale	6	3	0	3	14	7	9
Laverton Park	6	3	0	3	10	16	9
Corio	6	2	2	2	15	10	8
Sporting Whittlesea FC	6	2	2	2	15	13	8
Northern Falcons	6	2	2	2	11	23	8
FC Strathmore	6	2	1	3	13	14	7
North City Lions	6	1	1	4	10	14	4
Essendon Utd	6	1	1	4	8	16	4
Western Eagles	6	0	1	5	5	18	1

Seniors — PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST — Reserves

Beaumaris 2 Old Camberwell Grammar 1, Hampton Park United Sparrows 3 (L Wang T Ithier D Masson) Skye Utd 1 (CA Di Petta), Lyndale Utd 0 Warragul Utd 0, Mooroolbark 1 (D Shields) Springvale City 3

Res: Beaumaris 2 Old Camberwell Grammar 0, Hampton Park United Sparrows Football Club 0 Skye Utd 0, Lyndale Utd 0 Warragul Utd 1, Mooroolbark 3 (D Cox JC Odd S Topali) Springvale City 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hampton Park United	6	4	2	0	17	11	14
Springvale City	5	4	1	0	10	1	13
Beaumaris	6	4	0	2	13	14	12
Warragul Utd	6	3	2	1	9	4	11
Mooroolbark	5	3	1	1	12	8	10
Old Melburnians	5	2	2	1	12	9	8
Monash University	5	1	2	2	8	14	5
Old Camberwell Grammar	6	1	1	4	4	7	4
Skye Utd	6	1	1	4	10	14	4
Sandringham SC	5	2	0	3	9	7	3
Lyndale Utd	6	0	3	3	7	15	3
Brandon Park	5	0	1	4	3	10	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Mooroolbark	5	5	0	0	28	6	15
Warragul Utd	6	4	0	2	21	11	12
Sandringham SC	5	4	1	0	18	6	10
Beaumaris	6	3	1	2	14	10	10
Monash University	5	2	3	0	12	9	9
Old Camberwell Grammar	6	2	2	2	11	12	8
Old Melburnians	5	2	1	2	9	6	7
Skye Utd	6	1	3	2	9	17	6
Brandon Park	5	1	2	2	6	13	5
Hampton Park United	6	1	2	3	6	24	5
Lyndale Utd	6	0	1	5	5	13	1
Springvale City	5	0	0	5	1	13	0

Seniors — PROVI 2 NORTH WEST — Reserves

Bell Park 7 (E Lawrence 2 I Majtara LJ Page 2 G Burton I Iheanacho) Plenty Valley Lions 0, Hoppers Crossing 2 Upfield 1, Lalor Utd 1 Moreland Utd 4, Melbourne Tornado 1 (D Tonc) Melbourne City 0, West Preston 3 (S Litinakis C Tsalkos WJ Sismanis) Epping City 3 (N Herry S Cicek 2), Northern Roosters 3 Elwood City 2

Res: Bell Park 1 Plenty Valley Lions 1, Hoppers Crossing 0 Upfield 2, Lalor Utd 0 Moreland Utd 0, Melbourne Tornado 6 Melbourne City 0, West Preston 0 Epping City 0, Northern Roosters 1 Elwood City 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hoppers Crossing	6	5	0	1	15	10	15
Moreland Utd	6	4	1	1	14	8	13
West Preston	6	4	1	1	11	8	13
Epping City	6	3	1	2	12	10	10
Upfield	6	3	0	3	12	9	9
Plenty Valley Lions	6	3	0	3	8	11	9
Melbourne Tornado	6	2	2	2	11	14	8
Elwood City	6	2	1	3	15	15	7
Melbourne City	6	2	0	4	10	13	6
Northern Roosters	6	2	0	4	10	13	6
Lalor Utd	6	2	0	4	8	15	6
Bell Park	6	1	0	5	12	12	3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Upfield	6	6	0	0	20	6	18
Elwood City	6	4	1	1	26	12	13
Epping City	5	4	0	1	13	5	12
Hoppers Crossing	6	4	0	2	9	4	12
Lalor Utd	6	3	1	2	8	8	10
Moreland Utd	6	2	1	3	6	8	7
Northern Roosters	6	2	1	3	11	14	7
Melbourne Tornado	6	2	0	4	18	22	6
Bell Park	6	1	2	3	6	10	5
Plenty Valley Lions	6	1	1	4	7	15	4
Melbourne City	6	1	1	4	8	21	4
West Preston	5	0	2	3	7	14	2

Seniors — PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST — Reserves

Riversdale 1 (A Anagnostopoulos) Caulfield United Cobras SC 1 (J Hiolos), Boroondara Eagles 2 Ashburton United 4 (P Alexopoulos JA Clemson 2 C Deftereos), Keysborough 3 (M Roberts G Roberts P Rodriguez) Monbulk 0, Old Carey 1 Seaford Utd 1, Uni. of Melbourne 2 (M Thancanamootoo M Mahboob) Endeavour Utd 0, Bayside Argonauts 3 Casey Kings 3

Res: Riversdale 0 Caulfield United Cobras SC 0, Boroondara Eagles 0 Ashburton United 1, Keysborough 3 (R Soukkane G- Gallardo 2) Monbulk 3, Old Carey 4 Seaford Utd 2, Uni. of Melbourne 2 (R Gough T Sloan) Endeavour Utd 1, Bayside Argonauts 7 Casey Kings 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Caulfield United Cobras	6	3	3	0	14	9	12
Bayside Argonauts	6	3	2	1	16	9	11
Riversdale	6	3	1	2	9	10	10
Casey Kings	6	3	3	0	19	9	9
Monbulk	6	3	0	3	9	10	9
Ashburton United	6	3	0	3	12	14	9
Keysborough	6	2	2	2	12	9	8
Old Carey	6	2	2	2	9	9	8
Seaford Utd	6	2	1	3	10	11	7
Boroondara Eagles	6	1	2	3	8	12	5
Endeavour Utd	6	1	1	4	5	9	4
Uni. of Melbourne	6	1	1	4	6	18	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keysborough	6	4	2	0	20	12	14
Monbulk	6	4	1	1	20	7	13
Ashburton United	6	4	1	1	17	8	13
Uni. of Melbourne	6	4	0	2	14	9	12
Caulfield United Cobras	5	4	0	1	9	4	12
Endeavour Utd	6	3	1	2	9	7	10
Old Carey	6	2	3	1	9	8	9
Bayside Argonauts	6	2	0	4	18	15	6
Seaford Utd	6	2	0	4	11	15	6
Boroondara Eagles	6	1	1	4	7	17	4
Riversdale	5	0	0	5	5	16	0
Casey Kings	6	0	1	5	4	25	-2

Seniors — PROVI 3 NORTH WEST — Reserves

Balmoral FC 1 (S Zeric) Heidelberg Stars 1, Brimbank Stallions 5 (M Raniolo S Tapia 2 G Tenaglia E Anei) Melton Phoenix FC 0, Darebin Utd 2 Youth Utd 1, Essendon Royals 2 (S Mungherli A Sirin) Watsonia Heights 1, Mill Park 0 Moreland Wolves 1, Brunswick Zebras 5 Meadow Park Eagles 2 (A Rinaldi D Magro)

Res: Balmoral FC 1 (S Zeric) Heidelberg Stars 1, Brimbank Stallions 0 Melton Phoenix FC 1, Essendon Royals 1 (F Milne) Watsonia Heights 3, Mill Park 0 Moreland Wolves 4,

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Essendon Royals	6	5	0	1	19	13	15
Brunswick Zebras	6	4	1	1	22	14	13
Moreland Wolves	6	4	0	2	17	10	12
Brimbank Stallions	6	4	1	1	18	9	10
Heidelberg Stars	6	3	1	2	14	11	10
Meadow Park Eagles	6	3	1	2	14	14	10
Youth Utd	5	2	1	2	9	14	7
Watsonia Heights	6	2	0	4	13	11	6
Balmoral FC	6	1	3	2	20	19	6
Darebin Utd	5	2	0	3	5	7	6
Mill Park	6	1	0	5	2	14	3
Melton Phoenix FC	6	0	0	6	5	22	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Watsonia Heights	6	6	0	0	26	4	18
Heidelberg Stars	6	4	1	1	25	11	13
Moreland Wolves	6	4	1	1	18	8	13
Melton Phoenix FC	6	4	1	1	10	6	13
Brimbank Stallions	6	4	0	2	7	6	9
Brunswick Zebras	5	2	1	2	13	8	7
Darebin Utd	5	2	1	2	6	10	7
Balmoral FC	6	1	2	3	9	12	5
Meadow Park Eagles	5	1	1	3	4	12	4
Essendon Royals	6	1	0	5	12	16	3
Youth Utd	5	1	0	4	12	23	3
Mill Park	6	0	0	6	2	28	0

Seniors — PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST — Reserves

East Bentleigh 4 (A Papaioannou JR Roughton M Prantzos 2) White Star Dandenong 5, Baxter 1 (B Ingram) Rowville Eagles 5 (D Golubov A Sabau 2 JM Botha J Mardale), Old Trinity Grammarians 1 Collingwood City 3 (E Papageorgiou I Skukan M Fox), Brighton 2 (N Ormond C Ogden) Old Brighton Grammarians 1, Whitehorse Utd Middle Park FC , Eltham Redback FC 2 (D Oehme 2) Noble Park 4

Res: East Bentleigh 2 (F Hatzi W Hague) White Star Dandenong 11, Baxter 3 (B Norris MP Van Schajik J Brown) Rowville Eagles 2 (A Kollar A Mitrea), Old Trinity Grammarians Collingwood City , Brighton 1 Old Brighton Grammarians 2, Whitehorse Utd Middle Park FC , Eltham Redback FC 2 Noble Park 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Collingwood City	6	6	0	0	17	6	18
Middle Park FC	6	5	1	0	22	3	15
Rowville Eagles	6	4	0	2	21	13	12
Whitehorse Utd	6	3	2	1	10	5	10
Old Brighton Grammarians	6	3	0	3	15	11	9
Brighton	6	3	0	3	15	16	9
White Star Dandenong	6	3	0	3	13	19	9
Old Trinity Grammarians	6	2	0	4	11	19	6
Baxter	6	2	0	4	10	18	6
Eltham Redback FC	5	1	1	3	7	14	4
Noble Park	5	1	0	4	10	16	3
East Bentleigh	6	0	0	6	10	21	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Brighton Grammarians	6	6	0	0	16	8	18
Collingwood City	5	4	1	0	26	7	13
Baxter	6	4	1	1	21	13	13
Brighton	6	3	2	1	14	9	11
Old Trinity Grammarians	5	3	0	2	14	9	9
Middle Park FC	6	3	1	2	11	6	9
Whitehorse Utd	6	3	1	2	13	10	9
White Star Dandenong	6	2	0	4	19	18	6
Rowville Eagles	6	2	0	4	12	16	6
East Bentleigh	6	0	1	5	10	29	1
Noble Park	5	0	1	4	2	22	1
Eltham Redback FC	5	0	0	5	1	12	0



FOOTBALL FEDERATION VICTORIA

Goal! Weekly appreciates the support and financial assistance of FFV

State & Provi Round 7 Fixtures

All matches to be played on Saturday 21st May with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

STATE NW 2
Altona City v Whittlesea Ranges FC
HC Kim Reserve
Ballarat Red Devils v Altona East Phoenix
Trekardo Park
Banyule City v Geelong
Yallambie Park Res...
FC Clifton Hill v Westgate
Kevin Bartlett Res...
Werribee City v Moreland City
Galvin Park Reserve
Williamstown v Brunswick City
JT Gray Reserve

STATE SE 2
Doncaster Rovers v South Springvale
Anderson Park Fri 20 May KO 8:30PM
Casey Comets v Noble Park Utd
Comets Stadium
Dandenong City v Diamond Valley Utd
Frank Holohan Soccer Res
Heatherton Utd v Malvern City
Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre
Knox City v Eastern Lions
Egan Lee Reserve
Morwell Pegasus v Box Hill United
Ronald Reserve

STATE NW 3
Cairnlea v Keilor Park
Cairnlea Park
Avondale Heights v Melbourne University
Doyle Street Reserve
Geelong Rangers v Yarraville Glory
Myers Reserve
La Trobe University v Maribyrnong Greens
Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Field
Sydenham Park v Sunbury Utd
Keilor Lodge Reserve
Whittlesea Utd v Hume Utd
Thomas Street Recreational Res

STATE SE 3
Berwick City v Frankston Pines
Jack Thomas Reserve
Doveton v Nunawading City FC
Waratah Reserve
Peninsula Strikers v Fitzroy City
Centenary Park
Waverley Wanderers v Old Scotch
Carlson Avenue Res...
North Caulfield v Mornington
Caulfield Park Sun 22 May KO 3:00PM
Kingston City v Croydon City Arrows
The Grange Reserve Mon 23 May KO 8:30PM

PROVI NW 1
Corio v Westvale
Hume Reserve, Geelong
FC Strathmore v Essendon Utd
Strathnaver Reserve
North City Lions v North Sunshine Eagles
Wallace Reserve
Northern Falcons v Surf Coast
Hayes Park
South Yarra v Laverton Park
Fawkner Park (Northern Pavilion)
Sporting Whittlesea FC v Western Eagles
RGC Cook Reserve -...

PROVI SE 1
Beaumaris v Lyndale Utd
Beaumaris Reserve
Skye Utd v Warragul Utd
Skye Recreational ...
Monash University v Mooroolbark
Monash University ...
Old Camberwell Grammar v Old Melburnians
Deepdene Park
Sandringham SC v Brandon Park
Spring St Oval
Springvale City v Hampton Park Utd Sparrows
Ross Reserve

PROVI NW 2
Epping City v Melbourne Tornado
Duffy Street Reserve
Melbourne City v Lalor Utd
Edwards Reserve
Moreland Utd v Hoppers Crossing
Moomba Park Reserve
Plenty Valley Lions v Elwood City
Sycamore Reserve
West Preston v Northern Roosters
Oulton Reserve
Upfield v Bell Park
Gibb Reserve

PROVI SE 2
Monbulk v Caulfield United Cobras SC
Monbulk Recreation...Fri 20 May KO 8:30PM
Ashburton United v Uni. of Melbourne
Ashburton Park
Casey Kings v Keysborough
Betula Park
Endeavour Utd v Bayside Argonauts
Reema Reserve
Old Carey v Boroondara Eagles
Carey Sports Complex
Seaford Utd v Riversdale
North Seaford Reserve

PROVI NW 3
Darebin Utd v Brunswick Zebras
Mayer Park
Heidelberg Stars v Brimbank Stallions
Cartledge Reserve
Mill Park v Essendon Royals
Findon Reserve
Watsonia Heights v Balmoral FC
Gabonia Reserve
Youth Utd v Moreland Wolves
Seth Raistrick Res...
Melton Phoenix FC v Meadow Park Eagles
MacPhersons Park Sat 21 May KO 7:00PM

PROVI SE 3
East Bentleigh v Eltham Redbacks FC
Bailey Reserve
Whitehorse Utd v Brighton
Terrara Park
Old Trinity Grammarians v Baxter
Trinity Sports Ground
Rowville Eagles v Noble Park
Park Ridge Reserve
White Star Dandenong v Middle Park FC
Greaves Reserve
Old Brighton Gramm v Collingwood City
Dendy Park

Comets inflict first defeat on Eastern Lions

By Michal Skrodsky

Well football freaks another week as passed and the State Leagues and Provisional leagues are that little bit clearer. Let's get right into the action of Round 6 of the Victorian lower leagues shall we!



This studs up tackle earned Martin O'Hare an early shower 34 minutes into the game. The first in his 30+ year career. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Leigh Wilkinson gets his second yellow in the 90th minute. Photo: ANITA MILAS

State 2 NW saw Moreland City continue their rampage on this league and maintain their perfect 100% but only after a hard fought 2-1 win at home over Williamstown. The chasing Whittlesea Ranges and Werribee City both dropped points this week opening up a 4 point gap for Moreland City over the Ranges and a 5 point gap over the Bees. Banyule remain without a point and looks like it will take a miracle for them to avoid relegation. Next week look out for the match between 3rd in Werribee City take on league leaders Moreland City in what will be match of the round down at Galvin Park, Werribee.

State 2 SE saw Dandenong City jump Eastern Lions and take top spot. Dandenong City got over rivals Heatherton United 2-0 away while the Lions lost to Casey Comets 1-0 at home. Diamond Valley are only 1 point behind Eastern Lions now in 3rd after a 2-1 win over Morwell. Box Hill also smashed last placed Knox City 4-0 at home. Next week's pick of the round is Dandenong City vs Diamond Valley United in a top of the table corker. This league remains very close and each match is a 6 pointer.

State 3 NW saw Sydenham Park jump into second spot after a huge 4-1 away win at Melbourne University. Although Keilor Park remain top by two points after they got back into the winners circle with solid 2-0 home win over Whittlesea United. The battle between the cellar dwellers, Maribyrnong Greens and Hume United ended in a 2-2, both teams will be upset they couldn't win this match and lift themselves out of the drop zone. Next week the best match to watch will probably be out at Cairnlea Park as Cairnlea take on Keilor Park. Cairnlea are 4th but could jump the league leaders as they are only 3 points behind.

State 3 SE saw the huge top of the table war between Old Scotch and Kingston end in a bitter 1-1 draw leaving Kingston on top by 1 point over Old Scotch. Mornington threw themselves in the mix and are third 1 point behind the bourgeois boys from Old Scotch after a 3-0 win over Berwick. It was a painful week for Frankstonian football after both teams experienced hidings, Peninsula Strikers went down 7-0 at home to Doveton while the Pines continue their wowful start to the season with a 6-1 away loss at Fitzroy City. The Pines have now conceded 26 goals in 6 games, twice as many as anyone else in the league. Next week North Caulfield vs Mornington will be the match of the round, let's see if playing on a Sunday won't throw the Mornington boys off.

Provisional 1 NW saw North Sunshine crunch out Laverton Park 5-1, which was 2nd verses 3rd. This result sends a strong message to the rest of the league. But North Sunshine still are 4 points off Corio continue to rampage like a wild elephant, this week the stampede took place at Wallace Resereve and the victims were North City Lions; 4-0 the scoreline. Elsewhere the mighty Western Eagles halted their 3 match losing streak with a huge 4-1 home win over Strathmore. Laverton Park dropped from 3rd to 7th after their loss this week highlighting just how close this league is. Next week the Eagles of the West travel down to Corio to take on their Hungarian cousins in the match of the week.

Provisional 1 SE had Springvale City take out of match of the round 3-1 away at Mooroolbark and hold onto top spot. Hampton Park keep the pressure on in 2nd with a 3-1 home win over Skye United. Beaumaris, Warragul and Mooroolbark all stay in the chase for promotion in this league. Next week is the biggest match of the season so far, 1st vs 2nd, Springvale City vs Hampton Park, get down to Ross Reserve next week and watch two proud clubs battle it our for top spot.

Provisional 2 NW saw West Preston and Epping City have a thrilling 3-3 draw in match of the round. This opened the door for Moreland United to jump into second spot and they did so with a 4-1 away win at Lalor United. Hoppers Crossing remain top after a good 2-1 home win over Upfield and are 2 points ahead of Moreland. Plenty Valley had a dramatic turn of form, for the worse, last week the inflicted Hoppers' first loss of the year, this week they went down 7-0 away at Bell Park. This league is another league to feature a 1st vs 2nd thrill machine match. Next week Moreland United will host Hoppers Crossing, nothing more needs to be said.

Provisional 2 SE saw the top three teams all only managed to go home with 1 point. Caulfield United (1st) drew 1-1 with Riversdale (3rd) and Bayside (2nd) could not capitalise with a 3-3 draw with Casey Kings (4th). This is one of the tighest leagues, 4 points seperate 1st down to 8th and only 8 points seperate the whole league, each point and win is crucial like oxygen. Next week'a match of the round is Monbulk vs Caulfield United.

Provisional 3 NW (this reporter's favourite league) saw Brunswick Zebras (2nd) defeat Meadow Park (3rd coming into this week) in a 5-2 cracker, very typical for this crazy league. Despite fending off 2nd this week Brunswick remain only 1 point ahead of third, this week Moreland Wolves moved up into third after a slick 1-0 away win at Mill Park. Essendon Royals remain on top after a 2-1 win over Watsonia Heights. Melton's season of pain continues, this week a 5-0 loss away to Brimbank Stallions. Next week get down to Cartledge Reserve for Heidelberg Stars vs Brimbank Stallions.

Provisional 3 SE saw Collingwood contine their romp but Middle Park romp was stomped. Collingwood City had another win, 3-1 away at Old Trinity. While the Whitehorse United stomped all over Middle Park's romp and were the first team to take points off them with a draw. Elsewhere in the crunch game of the week, White Star Dandenong and a huge 5-4 win at East Bentleigh, East Bentleigh remain without a point. Next week is a middle-table match up of massive proportions, Whitehorse United vs Brighton.

Next week my regular segments such a Crunch Game at it's best will return as this reporter in a rush and is about to board a plane back to Melbourne.

CRUNCHALOR!



Comets tame the Eastern Lions with a goal in the 5th minute thanks to David Terek, ending a winning streak for the Lions. Photo: ANITA MILAS



The Comets keeper came off his line to save the ball from going into the goals. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Leigh Wilkinson earns a yellow card for this tackle against Munyaradzi Nyadzayo Photo: ANITA MILAS

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Southern Stars apply pressure on Sharks

PRESTON LIONS SHAKE OFF EARLY SEASON POOR FORM

Only three of the six round 6 matches have been played this weekend. One match postponed, another set down for a later date, and the final game of the round to be played on Monday night.

All matches were played in cold, wet and windy conditions, as the first taste of winter engulfed the state over the weekend. The Altona Magic Vs Sunshine George Cross game will be played in one of the catch up rounds, whilst the Whittlesea Zebras Vs Langwarrin is set to be played on Sunday June 12.

The round 6 action kicked off on Friday night down at Elcho Park with North Geelong hosting Southern Stars. The long journey for the visitors was worthwhile, as they recording their fifth straight win.

Local rivals Fawkner and Preston staged an interesting struggle on the slippery surface of CB Smith Reserve, whilst Western Suburbs and Pascoe Vale fought it out at Ralph Reserve with the Paco finding form once again.



Ray Lally puts his Preston opponent in the shade. PHOTO: DARRYL KENNEDY



Goalmouth tangle ... Preston keeper Hamid Kamali and Fawkner's Jason Dolevski collide in mid air. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Fawkner's Burakhan Koca stops Preston from bringing the ball out of defence. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

SOUTHERN STARS COME THROUGH STERN TEST

NORTH GEELONG 1
SOUTHERN STARS 3

North Geelong must be ruing the chances missed in this game that presented the opportunity for the high flying Southern Stars to register a 3-1 win.

The score line in favour of the visitors was not indicative of the balance of play with the Warriors taking the game up to Southern Stars. It was the home team who began like run-away train with a goal inside 3 minutes of the start through Michael Boyar, who warmed up the locals at a very cold Elcho Park with the opening goal of the game.

The goal inspired the Warriors as they launched a series of attacks that should have produced more goals in the opening 15 minutes. Two golden opportunities were wasted that allowed the visitors to stay in the match. Southern Stars came into the game and went in level at the break with a goal scored from Chris Greechan after 36 minutes.

The Warriors continued to press and were more than a match for the more fancied opponent, but lacked the guile to take the lead. North Geelong came close when hitting the post and the cross-bar and the Stars keeper Robert Acs also played his part by coming out on top saving one on one situations.

Elementary mistakes at the back lead to Southern Stars taking lead in the 72 minute when Noel Fox scored and they made sure of all 3 points with a third goal 6 minutes later from the team's leading goal scorer Mark Leeech. Southern Stars defence was in no mood to relinquish the lead by playing safe at all times at the back and not taking the kind of risks that lead to kind of goals North Geelong conceded.

North Geelong coach Ante Skoko was happy with his team's performance despite to loss saying his boys played well and created chances against one of the top teams in this division.

PRESTON LIONS ADDING BITE TO THEIR ROAR

FAWKNER BLUES 1
PRESTON LIONS 3

Preston Lions continued on their recent revival by overcoming the Fawkner Blues 3-1 at CB Smith Reserve. The Lions have taken 7 points from the past 3 matches to erase the memories of the poor start to the season. In a match that was very competitive, it was the Blues who had more than their fair share of possession, but the home team was not as clinical as Preston in front of goal.

Preston's first goal was pure luck for the Lions with a long defensive clearance by Adis Sehic hitting the water logged ground and bouncing over Pasi Schwalger to give the visitors a surprise lead. Another goal from Kliment Dimitrievski had the visiting supporters in a buoyant mood at the break.



Despite appearances Preston's #16 (Tony Neceski ?) is not pretending to throttle Kliment Dimitrieski for missing a goal, he's congratulating him on increasing the

The second half continued in the same vein as the first with Fawkner having all the possession without using their advantage on the scoreboard.

The Blues pushed hard to get into the game in the second half but it was Preston who added to the score to go to a 3-0 lead courtesy of a goal from the veteran John Sapazovski.

Fawkner never gave up and continued to plug away and were able to pull a goal back before the end through Burakhan Koca for a final score of 3-1 to the Lions. This was a game that can be best described as, Fawkner having most of the possession and Preston doing all the scoring.

DOMINANT DISPLAY BY PASCOE VALE

WESTERN SUBURBS 0
PASCOE VALE 3

Pascoe Vale threw the form book out the window on Sunday afternoon when they upset Western Suburbs 3-0 at Ralph Reserve. Pascoe Vale was determined to make amends for their poor start to the season and applied tremendous pressure on the home team from the first whistle. The opening goal was a long time coming, but once Pascoe Vale scored the first goal, there was only going to be one winner.

The Vale never allowed Suburbs time on the ball and were in control for long periods in a dominant first half. There was no goals to show for their efforts at the end of the first half, but when Luca Santilli opened the scoring at the 70th minute mark, the flood gates opened up.

Jossph Yousif added a second 5 minutes later to rattle Suburbs. The home team had no options but to push forward and try to score leaving huge gaps at the back that Pascoe Vale exploited without making their opportunities count. It could have been much worse for Western Suburbs had the visitors capitalised on two one on one on goal, but could failed on both occasions.

The game was as good as over when Joseph Yousif scored his second for the afternoon late in the game to give Pascoe Vale their second win of the season.

The defeat for Suburbs was a huge set back for Lorenz Kindtner's side who up to this stage had only suffered one other defeat at the hands of Port Melbourne.

SL1 RESULTS

North Geelong Warriors 1 (M Boyar)
Southern Stars 3 (M- Leech C Greechan N Fox)

Fawkner Blues 1
Preston Lions 3

Sunshine George Cross
Altona Magic

Western Suburbs 0
Pascoe Vale 3

U21:
North Geelong Warriors 3 Southern Stars 1, Fawkner Blues 3 Preston Lions 1, Western Suburbs 2 Pascoe Vale 1, Sunshine George Cross Altona Magic

SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne	5	5	0	0	11	3	15
Southern Stars	6	5	0	1	12	7	15
Whittlesea Z	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Fawkner Blues	6	3	0	3	9	6	9
Western Sub	6	2	2	2	9	11	8
Altona Magic	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
Langwarrin	5	2	1	2	6	8	7
Preston Lions	6	2	1	3	12	15	7
Pascoe Vale	6	2	0	4	10	6	6
North Geelong	6	2	0	4	6	13	6
Bulleen Lions	5	1	0	4	3	7	3
Sun George X	5	1	0	4	5	10	3

SL1 Next Round

Port Melbourne v Langwarrin
SS Anderson Reserve
Fri 20 May KO 8:30PM

Nth Geelong v Whittlesea Zebras
Elcho Park
Fri 20 May KO 8:30PM

Pascoe Vale v Fawkner Blues
Hosken Reserve
Sat 21 May KO 3PM

Preston Lions v Altona Magic
BT Connor Reserve
Sun 22 May KO 3:00PM

Sun George Cross v FC Bulleen Lions
Chaplin Reserve
Sun 22 May KO 3:00PM

Western Suburbs v Southern Stars
Ralph Reserve
Sun 22 May KO 3:00PM

SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Western Sub	6	5	0	1	17	14	15
Southern Stars	6	4	1	1	19	13	13
Bulleen Lions	5	4	0	1	19	5	12
North Geelong	6	3	1	2	15	9	10
Fawkner Blues	6	3	1	2	12	13	10
Pascoe Vale	6	3	0	3	16	14	9
Langwarrin	5	3	0	2	9	7	9
Whittlesea Z	5	2	1	2	12	11	7
Sun George X	5	1	2	2	13	17	5
Port Melbourne	5	0	2	3	4	10	2
Altona Magic	5	0	2	3	6	14	2
Preston Lions	6	0	0	6	10	25	0

Gully down South in thriller

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 3

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2

Match Details

Green Gully: 1. Nikola ROGANOVIC, 2. Daniel JONES, 4. Cameron DRAKE, 7. Jeffrey FLEMING, 8. Jason HAYNE (14. Simon STOREY), 9. Brent FISHER, 10. Graham HOCKLESS, 15. Hamid BASMA (12. Mathew SANDERS), 16. Mile MEDJEDOVIC, 17. Andy VARGAS, 19. Johnathon MUNOZ.

Un-Used Subs: 23. Michael O'FARRELL, 6. Michael ANDERSON, 11. Pasquale VIZZARI.

Scorers: Basma 5', Medjedovic 53', Sanders 77'.

South Melbourne: 1. Abdelhadi DEROUNE, 16. Trent WATERSON, 18. Marinos GASPARIS, 15. Fernando DE MORAES (21. Sebastian PETROVIC), 13. Ljubo MILICEVIC, 6. Steven TOPALOVIC, 5. Daniel VASILEVSKI, 4. Steven O'DOR, 3. Rhodri PAYNE, 11. Jesse KRNCEVIC, 25. Kyle JORYEFF (14. Kamal IBRAHIM).

Un-Used Subs: 17. Jake VANDERMAY, 21. Zaim ZENELLI. Robert RUSSELL.

Scorers: De Moraes 11' (pen) , 58' (pen).

By David Manuca

A late header from substitute Mathew Sanders gifted Green Gully a 3-2 win against South Melbourne in a thrilling encounter at Green Gully Reserve on Saturday afternoon.

Hamid Basma gave Green Gully the lead early on before De Moraes brought South level just five minutes later from the penalty spot.

Medjedovic put the Cavaliers back in the lead early in the second half but once again De Moraes equalized five minutes after with another penalty.

But four minutes after coming on as a substitute Mathew Sanders scored a brilliant header to give Green Gully a memorable victory against one of this seasons VPL title contenders.

Green Gully made only one change to their starting line-up with Mathew Sanders dropped for the returning Brent Fisher.

New signing, former Melbourne Victory and North Queensland Fury player, Simon Storey, was named on the bench for the Cavaliers.

South Melbourne had Jesse Krncevic and Ljubo Milicevic back in the starting line-up after they returned from suspension.

Kyle Joryeff and Steven O'Dor were also promoted to the first eleven with Gianni De Nittis, Nick Jacobs, Jake Vandermey and Robert Russell all dropped to the bench.

Both sides played out scoreless draws last round with Green Gully unable to find the net against Bentleigh and the highly anticipated clash between South Melbourne and Dandenong failed to live up to the expectation with both sides failing to score.

The last time South Melbourne defeated Green Gully at Green Gully Reserve was in 1986 and it was no surprise that the Cavaliers took the lead just five minutes in.

Johnathon Munoz broke through down the left hand side and passed the ball to Basma, with the former South Melbourne player taking a shot which South Melbourne goalkeeper Abdelhadi Deroune got a hand to but the ball crept in despite Rhodri Payne's best efforts to keep it out.



Green Gully's Matthew Sanders gets the all-important winner and secures another vaulable three points against South Melbourne. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Five minutes later Jesse Krncevic beat his man on the left before playing a low cross to Kyle Joryeff in the centre.

Nikola Roganovic came off his line to try and prevent Joryeff getting a shot on goal but instead fouled the Englishman with the referee having no qualms about pointing to the spot.

Fernando De Moraes stepped up and slotted away the penalty kick to bring South Melbourne back on level terms.

The next best chance of the game fell to Brent Fisher after some nice work down the right.

Fisher and Hayne played a neat one-two with the latter crossing the ball in and Milicevic's failed attempt at a clearance fell straight Fisher on the edge of the area who hit the ball first time but his shot was brilliantly saved by Deroune.

The rest of the first half was bogged down in midfield with the game becoming quite dour.

The second half started the way the first ended with possession mostly contested in the midfield and both sides guilty of giving away the ball far too regularly.

But 53 minutes in the game got the spark it needed when Medjedovic put Green Gully back ahead.

Hockless' corner was flicked on at the near post by Brent Fisher and after a scramble in the box Medjedovic got his head to the ball to put Gully 2-1 ahead.

It was a case of déjà vu five minutes later when once again Kyle Joryeff was fouled in the box with De Moraes stepping up to score his second goal of the match.

Johnathon Munoz was the culprit this time after a silly challenge on Joryeff in the penalty area. Although Munoz didn't think the decision was the correct one thus earning himself a yellow card after complaining to the referee.

Two minutes later De Moraes had the chance to net a hattrick but his effort was saved by Roganovic.

South Melbourne were so close to taking the lead on 69 minutes when a corner kick fell straight to Krncevic in the box and his first time volley crashed off the crossbar and back into play.

The ball eventually found its way to Milicevic who took a shot but once again Roganovic was on hand to deny South a goal.

Green Gully manager Lubo Lapsansky made a substitution on 73 minutes with goal-scorer Hamid Basma replaced by Mathew Sanders.

And it proved to be a masterstroke as only four minutes later Sanders put Gully ahead for the third time in the match.

Andy Vargas fought hard down the right before playing in a great cross to the centre where Sanders connected with the ball, looping his header over the advancing Deroune.

South Melbourne searched for an equalizer in the closing stages of the game but Green Gully held strong continuing their home dominance against South and picking up just their fourth win of the season.

Round 13 of the 2011 VPL season will see Green Gully take on top of the table Oakleigh Cannons in the third of their four consecutive home games on Saturday, whilst South Melbourne will host Springvale Eagles on Sunday afternoon.



Hamis Basma scores from an acute angle and continues the Green Gully revival. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Fernando de Moraes makes no mistake from the spot and celebrates accordingly.' Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Cannons triumph in epic encounter

NORTHCOTE CITY	3
OAKLEIGH CANNONS	4

Match Details

Northcote City: 22 Chris Petropoulos, 12 Hayden D'Agostino, 2 Adriano Chiappetta, 16 Paul Savio, 8 Nicholas Curtis, 10 Glen Trifiro, 23 Jason Trifiro, 13 Samuel Torrens, 19 Dean Piemonte (7 Jonathan Voulgaris 71'), 18 James Kalafatidis, 9 Trent Rixon

Scorers: Trent Rixon 13' 31', Nicholas Curtis 81'
Yellow cards: Adriano Chiappetta, Hayden D'Agostino
Red cards: Samuel Torrens 53'

Oakleigh Cannons: 1 Peter Zois, 7 Bonel Obradovic (8 James Robinson '59), 23 Anthony Bran, 4 Ante Cicak (20 Ari Drakos '81), 19 Dane Milovanovic, 22 James Downey (25 Craig Goodwin '81), 2 James Cumming, 10 Ricky Diaco, 6 Ramazan Tavsancioglu, 13 Bill Damianos, 15 Stephen Hatzikostas

Scorers: Hayden D'Agostino '45 own goal, Ricky Diaco '52 pen, Ante Cicak '56, Dane Milovanovic '92
Yellow cards: Anthony Bran, Dane Milovanovic, Peter Zois, Ramazan Tavsancioglu, Stephen Hatzikostas
Red cards: None

Man of the Match: Dane Milovanovic
Venue: John Cain Memorial Park
Crowd: 500

By Tony Persoglia

It was billed as the match of the season, 1st versus 3rd, two genuine challengers for the premiership crown, and despite the heavens conspiring to almost put a dampener on proceedings, Saturday's clash against Northcote City and Oakleigh Cannons delivered on all counts.

It almost never happened. Persistent rain in the days leading up to Saturday threatened to put a halt to the match, and the Under 21s was postponed until a pitch inspection at 1pm was conducted to determine the suitability of the playing surface. When match official Shaun Evans gave the green light for play, both teams set about the challenge of a match in difficult conditions.

Amidst the biting wind and intermittent showers, the first goal of this enthralling encounter echoed memories of the opener at John Cain the previous week, with James Kalifatidis displaying great pace and tenacity in beating his man on the right before sending an inch perfect cross that found Trent Rixon. The captain beat Peter Zois with an expertly taken finish, Northcote again with an early lead at home.

Rixon, who has put injury and a slow start behind him to hit career-best form doubled the lead on the half-hour. A searching thruball from Nicholas Curtis caused enough indecision in the Cannons defense, Rixon pouncing on the opportunity, beating his defender and unleashing the ultimate blow from a tight angle.

With their tails up, the hosts appeared destined to enter the break with a comfortable two-goal advantage, but a foul just before the half resulted in a set piece opportunity for the visitors. Up stepped Bill Damianos to deliver a curling free-kick struck from all of thirty yards. The City defence failed to deal with the dangerous ball, Hayden D'Agostino ultimately beating Chris Petropoulos with an untimely own goal.



Northcote keeper Chris Petropoulos stretches as he might but can't stop Dane Milovanovic's late winner to secure the spoils for the travelling Cannons. Photo: PETER PSARROS

2-1 at half-time, and the match would soon turn on its head at the resumption of play.

Barely seven minutes into the second half and Samuel Torrens was adjudged to have fouled James Downey in the penalty area, Shaun Evans awarding the spot-kick and reducing the hosts to ten men as he issued the red card to the former South Melbourne defender.

Damianos stepped up again, this time from the spot, and levelled the scores with a cleanly struck penalty kick.

What appeared unthinkable early in the first half became a reality not long into the second, the Cannons edging in front when another free-kick from long range, this time from Ante Cicak, found its way into the net with the City defence all at sea.

A goal and a man down, Northcote City threw caution to the wind by pushing numbers forward, and the injection of Jonathan Voulgaris added some much needed pace on the right wing, where he caused no end of trouble.

Voulgaris' brilliant pass to a rampaging Rixon sent the talismanic striker through on goal, and Peter Zois was lucky not to see red as he was adjudged to foul in the penalty area, Evans once again pointing to the spot. It was Zois, fresh from his reprieve, who stood firm, saving Rixon's sweetly struck penalty, which in truth, was at the perfect height for the former Willem II keeper.

Disheartened, but not without spirit, City eventually got their equaliser with ten minutes remaining, Kalifatidis combining with Curtis to send the home fans in a state of delirium.

But the final chapter in this epic tale came in the second minute of added time, and it was the long ball again which exposed City's defense. Substitute James Robinson curled a delightful cross from out wide on the right, and found Dane Milovanovic who took his opportunity at the back post, sealing all three points for the Cannons, and confirming top spot at the end of Round 12.

Northcote City hit the road next Sunday, where a challenge against Melbourne Knights awaits at Knights Stadium. For the Cannons, they will travel to Gully Reserve where the buoyant hosts await them, fresh from a crunch win against South Melbourne.



Northcote's James Kalifatidis (18) and Trent Rixon combine to put the home side in front in an eventful afternoon. Photo: PETER PSARROS



Oakleigh Cannons land the sucker punch in injury time and take all three points in a grand finale. Photo: PETER PSARROS



Floodlights leave match in the dark

DANDENONG THUNDER	A
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	A

Match Details

Line Ups:

Dandenong Thunder:
S.Webster, J.Barnes, S.Gray, S.Rexhepi, BHarrison, A.Tomic, M.Theodore,C.Taylor, L.Sherbon, V.Korcari, L.Kearney.

Melbourne Knights:
M. John, S.Romein, J.Kozic, A.Colosimo, Y.Yusuf, J.Franjic, D.Dragicevic, A.Zilic, C.Sweeney (M. Welmant 14'), R. Filpovic.

By George Stogiannou

The Dandenong Thunder and Melbourne Knights clash at George Andrews Reserve was abandoned with the score at 0-0 after a floodlight failure in the 27th minute on Saturday evening.

The opening exchanges saw the home team push forward creating four chances mainly from set pieces whilst the Knights created one direct shot on target, when striker Yusuf Yusuf fired a shot straight at Thunder keeper Stuart Webster from outside the box.

Speaking to Goal! Weekly after the match, Stuart Munro expressed his frustration at the situation but took it all in his stride as similar floodlight failures had occurred in VPL matches against Green Gully and Northcote City in the past two seasons.

"Obviously it is disappointing. It happened last year and the year before and it's very frustrating from the club's point of view. It's actually the council's facilities and responsibility to maintain the lights and there's not really much the club could do anything about the electrics.

The surprising thing is that some lights on the tower were out whilst others were on. In previous years the whole lights would go out. Apparently the council has installed new lines, so we're not too sure if that may have been the problem and they just couldn't keep up with it yet.

But, these are all the things we are trying to find out from a council's point of view.

As a coach, it's very frustrating and very annoying that its happened. It's the last thing we needed at this particular stage. Unfortunately, it's a dilemma for Melbourne Knights as well as many of their supporters travelled from the other side of Melbourne for a game that only lasted twenty-five minutes or whatever is was. So, obviously very disappointing all around.

Asked when the game might be rescheduled, Munro answered, "The referee's report will have to submitted and then the FFV will have to make a decision accordingly. I think there is a free weekend approaching shortly, not sure if it's a catch-up round, but we'll just have to wait and see."

Asked what the impact is on the players, Munro responded, "It would be nice to have some continuity. We had a great result last week against Oakleigh, and we've been travelling well so far this season and keeping things going. It would have been great to continue that against Melbourne Knights, but it sort of breaks the momentum a little bit now."

"We've got a great bunch of lads here and with the things that have happened off the pitch it has affected the players in some way, but we just need to keep things in perspective and focus on the games. That's all we can really do and that's all I'm really in charge of.

Full credit to the players because they're really showing that they are mentality capable of taking these things in their stride."

GW also contacted the FFV and Communications Manager, Sean Burton replied, "FFV regards the safety of the players, officials and supporters as paramount and a full FFV investigation into this incident will be conducted.

Until this investigation is concluded it would be premature to speculate on the reasons for the power failure.

An announcement regarding the replaying of this fixture will be made as soon as reasonable possible. "



Kniights' Shaun Romein beats Thunder's Matt Theodore in a heading contest. PHOTO: GARY SISSONS



The referee called the players to the centre and security helped them off the ground when the lights failed.
Inset: The only lights going after the flood lights went out were in the grandstand where supporters waited in hope the lights would go back on. PHOTO: GARY SISSONS

Eagles and Greens share points

SPRINGVALE W EAGLES 1

BENTLEIGH GREENS 1

Match Details

MATCH STATS:
SHOTS: HC 5 MK 10
TARGET: HC 1 MK 5
CORNERS: HC 8 MK 5

Hume City Line Up:
Acevski, Pace (Bosevski 32'), Petrevski (Ofli 40'), Delic (Pistininzi 75'), Riccobene, Vlahos, Erdogan, Pir, Cardozo, Dilizia, Weir.

Yellow Cards: Cardozo, Delic
Goals: Zoran Petrevski 37'

Melbourne Knights Line Up:
John, Filipovic (Stefanou 70'), A. Colosimo, Junior De Camargo, Zilic, Kozic, Magdic, S. Romein, Sweeney, Dubios (Welmont 78'), Dragicevic (Yusef 75').

Yellow Cards: Dubios, Romein, Junior De Camargo, Yusef.

Goals: Magdic 56'.

MoM: Josip Magdic (MK)

Crowd: Approx
400 @ Broadmeadows Valley Park

By Vanessa Lougoon

With both teams needing a win, neither were able to step up in the critical moments, resulting in a 1-1 draw at White Eagles Stadium.

Intensity was on from the first kick, although play was a little erratic in the first five minutes.

The first scoring shot came in the 4th minute with Springvale's Zoran Vukas kicking from straight out front, but was comfortably saved by Green's goalkeeper Peter Gavalas.

Bentleigh had their first chance in the 6th minute with Stuart Nicholson cleverly bypassing a diving Eagles goalkeeper Scott Agustin, but hit the post. A quick thinking Agustin recovered immediately, saving the second scoring shot from the deflected ball, a wasted opportunity for Bentleigh.

Bentleigh's James McGarry had his chance in the 11th minute, striking from the right wing, but blasted it over the goal post.

Springvale were getting a lot of the ball towards their goals, but there was no one there to attack.

Fifteen minutes into the contest, Bentleigh were looking sharper and were starting to get on top of Springvale by dominating possession.

Bentleigh's Adam Fadljevic took a strike from 30 yards out front, but just missed to the left.

Loose passing by Bentleigh lead to easy turnovers and kept Springvale in the match and possession evened out by the 25th minute.

Springvale started to get numbers in their attack and were rewarded in the 30th minute with a goal from Milos Lujic, who managed to pass Gavalas from right of goal.

Only minutes later Springvale almost scored again, in a repeat play by Goran Zoric, but angled it too much just missing to the left of goal.

In the 42nd minute Springvale's Lewis Karanicolas centred a kick towards goal from deep out left wing, which almost looped in for an unlikely goal, Gavalas having to leap to push the ball over the post.

Bentleigh had a chance to level the score deep the first half with two solid scoring attempts, but Springvale's packed defence and good goal keeping prevented any chance of a goal.

Bentleigh came out aggressive in the second half, getting the ball immediately into their attack and making a scoring shot but were perhaps a little too hasty hitting the side of the goal net.

Looking like they were in a hurry, Bentleigh's Tom Mathews looked a little too revved up, tripping his opponent and consequently given a yellow card in the 47th minute.

Springvale were unlucky not to score in the 54th minute, with the ball in their packed goal square and multiple attacks, Bentleigh's defence scrambled to deflect the ball out.

It was Bentleigh who was able to capitalize in the 56th minute, with Ryan Davidson scoring from left of goal after being delivered a brilliant pass to level the match.

There was a lull for the next ten minutes of the match, with both teams going through the motions and the crowd quiet.

An unexpected scoring attempt from Springvale's Zoran Vukas just outside an empty goal square almost caught Gavalas off guard, but was caught, and it enough to get the crowd involved and inject life back in the match.

The rest of the match was a relatively even contest.

Springvale were getting their numbers in attack and in the 78th minute, strikes from Milos Lujic and substitute Rados Tomic almost resulted in goals but Gavalas and his defence prevented them from getting ahead.

Bentleigh substitute Johnathan Bounas had an immediate impact taking a shot within moments of arriving on field in the 78th minute, but blasted the ball over the goals.

While Springvale had the legs, Bentleigh had the patience and accuracy, having the ball predominantly in their half for the final ten minutes.

Bentleigh missed an opportunity to take the lead in the 88th minute when a fine pass delivered by Stuart Nicholson from the right wing to James McGarry in front of goal, but was chipped straight over goal.

Play sped up and Springvale sailed the ball into their attack and blasted it into goal but was deflected by Gavalas almost back into the centre of the field.

In the critical moments of the match, Springvale played it safe, opting to pass a corner ball rather than playing into the pack, resulting into nothing and eventually a Bentleigh turnover.

With the match going into overtime, Springvale looked nervous particularly when the ball was in Bentleigh's attack, looking reactive and were desperately scrambling for everything.

It was Springvale who had the final attack, this time Rados Tomic sent the corner ball into the pack, but was sent marginally to far to make a significant attempt.

Next week, Springvale take on VTC Football on Wednesday night and South Melbourne next weekend at John Cain Memorial Park, while Bentleigh Greens face Heidelberg United at Kingston Health.



Milos Lujic encourages the grandstand crowd to raise the volume after scoring his first-half goal. Gojko Ponjevic is all smiles. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Zoran Vukas (left) and Tom Matthews go in hard after the ball at the Earthworks end of the ground. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



... And referee Bruno D'Aniello books Tom Matthews Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Hume Hammer Saints

HUME CITY	4
ST ALBANS SAINTS	1

Match Details

Hume City starting line-up: Lupce ACEVSKI, Philip RICCOBENE, Serdar PIR, Fabio DILIZIA, Isiyan ERDOGAN, Michael BOSEVSKI, Richard CARDOZO, Andy VLAHOS (Adam NAKIC 84'), Atilla Diego OFLI, Ross THOMPSON (Dusko DELIC 80'), Steven WEIR (Mark PISTININZI 67'). SUBS: Kadir IRFANOGLU, Kenny GEROH.

Goals: Dilizia 33', Cardozo 37', 92', Ofli 66'.

Yellow cards: Riccobene 10', Pir 30'.

St Albans Saints: Steven PAVLOVIC, Alan PALEKA, Brian CHESSON, Michael GRGIC, Tomislav USKOK, Liam CANNELL, Stefan PIORKOWSKI, Mark PALEKA (Dario LASIC 82'), Josip LONCARIC (Martin HANA 65'), Daniel VISEVIC, Goran JOZELJIC.

SUBS: Anthony LONCARIC, Okan OZTEMIR.

Goal: Visevic 10'.

Yellow cards: Jozeljic 30', A. Paleka 70', Hana 80'.

By Steven Talevski

Hume City has come back from a goal down to defeat St Albans Saints 4-1 at Broadmeadows Valley Park on Sunday afternoon.

Hume City has now moved up to third spot in the Alanic Victorian Premier League while St Albans Saints are the only team without a win this season after 12 matches.

The match began with both teams attempting to gain control of the play however with ten minutes gone Phillip Riccobene blatantly handballed the ball inside his penalty area to give away a penalty to St Albans.

Daniel Visevic stepped up for the Saints and hit his penalty straight down the middle as Acevski was unable to get a clean pair of hands on the ball to hand St Albans the shock one nil lead.

Hume looked for the quick equaliser as youngster Atilla Diego Ofli, who replaced injured striker Zoran Petrevski in the starting line-up, saw his one and one opportunity saved by an impressive Steven Pavlovic in the 17th minute.

Minutes later Fabio Dilizia slammed his shot into the crossbar as Hume continued to search for their opening goal.

In the 30th minute Saints attacker Goran Jozeljic forced experienced Hume City goalkeeper Lupce Acevski into a solid save down to his right.

The rebound saw Jozeljic foul Serdar Pir which led to an altercation between the two players who were both booked with yellow cards for their actions.



Fabio Dilizia scores to pull the home side back on level terms..Photo: STEVE STAREK



Hume's Richard Cardozo continues his hot streak in front of goals and bangs in a brace for the afternoon. Photo: STEVE STAREK



Hume City's Phil Riccobene can't escape from a blatant hand-ball and the Saints duly converted to take an early shock lead. Photo: STEVE STAREK

Saints midfielder Mark Paleka had the games next chance as he hit his header well over the cross bar.

Hume City got their equalizer in the 33rd minute as Dilizia slammed his header in the back of the net from a superb cross by player coach Andy Vlahos.

Just three minutes later Richie Cardozo was able to get his foot onto a cross to hand Hume City the 2-1 lead.

Hume City continued to attack going into half time as Pavlovic was forced into a great top right hand corner save from a shot by Michael Bosevski.

Moments later Pavlovic was called once again as he made another save this time to his bottom left from a Ross Thompson shot.

Hume City came out in the second half looking to extend their as Ross Thompson saw his shot go past the left post in the 47th minute.

Hume City continued to have the better chances as Richie Cardozo saw his lob go over Pavlovic and the empty goal in the 57th minute.

St Albans looked to equalise in the 59th minute as Alan Paleka's header went over the crossbar.

Hume City extended their lead in the 66th minute as Andy Vlahos cut back the ball across goal to Ross Thompson who miss hit it and fell to Atilla Ofli who hit a classy finish.

Seventeen year old Ofli continues to impress this season for Hume City as he was able to take on the Saints defence and find Andy Vlahos who cut the ball back to Dusko Delic who hammered his shot over the cross bar.

Hume City got their fourth goal a minute before full time as Richie Cardozo's shot rebounded to Atilla Ofli who selflessly passed to an open Cardozo to tap the ball into the back of the net.

Hume City are now undefeated in four matches and remain three points behind the Oakleigh Cannons while St Albans Saints continue their horror season without a victory on the bottom on the Alanic Victorian Premier League.

Next week in round 13 Hume City travel to Kevin Bartlett reserve on Saturday afternoon to face Richmond while St Albans host Dandenong Thunder at Churchill Reserve on Sunday afternoon.

Bergers storm into second

HEIDELBERG UNITED	3
RICHMOND EAGLES	1

Match Details

Heidelberg United:
G.McMaster, L.Doumbalis, S.Martin, C.Elvin, B.Waring, A.Nabbout (J.Samargis 81'), E.Christodoulou, R.Greer, H.Armenian (M.Tancevski 90'), S.Alexovski (T.Nishimoto 56'), O.Ederaro.

Goals: Christodoulou 5' Alexovski 11' Ederaro 83'

Yellow Cards: Ederaro 75'

Red Cards: None

Richmond:
S.Gal, A.Viola (S.WIlson 77'), E.Karahan, R.Antoniadis, M.Bissinger, D.Tsiaras, M.Catalano, C.O'Hare, M.Eterovic (E.Batsis 68'), T.Purcell, M.Ferrante.

Goal: Catalano 1'

Yellow Cards: Viola 47' Ferrante 71'

Red Cards: None

By Mark Boric

HEIDELBERG UNITED have stormed to second place on the AVPL table with a 3-1 win over Richmond at Olympic Village. Entering the game in excellent form with five consecutive wins, Heidelberg made one change to the side which thumped VTC Football 5-0 midweek, with Steve Martin starting ahead of Takanori Nishimoto. Richmond lost Antun Kovacic from the side which defeated St Albans 2-0 the previous Saturday, with Andrew Viola coming in to replace him and Chris O'Hare gaining a start ahead of Evan Batsis.

Richmond got off the best possible start, Michael Catalano putting them ahead within the opening thirty seconds. O'Hare had made progress down the right, and when a cross was blocked to Michael Ferrante he headed the ball forward into the path of Catalano who slammed it into the net from eight yards. It was the second goal in as many games for the Eagles midfielder, coming five minutes earlier than his opener against St Albans.

Immediately the home side began to apply pressure to Richmond, with Sasho Alexovski turning and shooting at Stjepan Gal from an angle in the fifth minute. Just a minute later they managed to get back on level terms. A corner from the right was flicked on by Evan Christodoulou at the near post and sailed into the net just inside the far post

Catalano shot over the crossbar after cutting in from the right following a cheap turnover at a throw in near the corner flag in the tenth minute, in a very lively opening to the game. A minute later, the Bergers reversed their poor start and took the lead. Hamlet Armenian made a run down the right and his cross to the far post was headed back across goal for Alexovski to sweep home on the half volley.

Richmond's dismay at throwing away the lead was evident, and for the remainder of the half they were unable to match Heidelberg's efforts in a match which was becoming more and more of a battle as the pitch began to cut up. A cross from Timmy Purcell on the right was volleyed over the bar by Catalano in the twenty-third minute, before Richie Greer shot wide across the face of goal from outside the box when latching onto a blocked shot three minutes later.

Christodoulou had a opportunity to grab his second goal as half-time approached, but his header from Armenian's cross was within range for Gal to make a save. At the interval the score remained 2-1 to the hosts.

The visitors lifted their intensity when play resumed, and in matching Heidelberg in the contests manged to have the better of play for significant periods. They were unable to convert these good spells into goals, and nearly fell further behind on the hour mark when Greer's free-kick went around the wall and was tipped around the post by Gal.

A great run through the middle from Ferrante in the sixty-sixth minute saw him beat two men before shooting just over the crossbar from thirty yards out. Viola had to hook a cross from Armenian away at the far post shortly after, with an open goal beckoning for Heidelberg had he failed to do so. In the seventy-ninth minute a flicked on free-kick saw the ball fall to subsituute Batsis beyond the far post, and somehow his hard driven ball back across goal fell luckily to Griffin McMaster.

The game was open given the worsening conditions, with Richmond applying pressure to Heidelberg who were ever dangerous on the counter.

Batsis had a chance himself two minutes later, when a great lay off from O'Hare released him on the right but he shot over the target from twenty yards. A minute later, Heidelberg sealed the win. Intercepting a stray Ferrante pass, they broke down the right and won a corner. The ball was swung away from Gal and fell to ground in the middle of the box where Osagie Ederaro pounced to smash it over the line. Substitute Matt Tancevski should have made it 4-1 in injury time, but shot over the bar from eight yards after a lay off from Ederaro following a run down the right into the box.

It remained 3-1 at the final whistle, as Heidelberg recorded a sixth win in a row, scoring twenty-five goals in the process. They will next face Bentleigh Greens at Kingston Heath on Friday. Richmond will be in action on Saturday when they host Hume City at Kevin Bartlett Reserve.



Heidelberg are all in the chorus after dispatching the Eagles last night in the late VPL game. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Evan Christodoulou gets the Bergers back on level terms. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

Alanic VPL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PT
Oakleigh Cannons	13	8	2	3	29	20		26
Heidelberg Utd	13	8	3	2	34	12		24
Hume City	13	6	5	2	26	16		23
Dandenong Thunder	13	8	4	1	27	9		21
Northcote City	13	6	3	4	30	20		21
South Melbourne	13	6	3	4	23	26		21
Green Gully Cavaliers	13	5	2	6	25	15		17
Bentleigh Greens	13	4	5	4	17	17		17
Richmond	13	4	2	7	15	24		14
Melbourne Knights	13	2	6	5	16	17		11
Springvale White Eagles	13	1	6	6	16	38		9
VTC Football	11	3	0	8	11	33		9
St Albans Saints	12	0	3	9	10	32		3

Alanic VPL Round 13

Wed 18 May 8:30PM
Springvale White Eagles v N.T.C White Eagles Stadium

Fri 20 May 8:15PM
Bentleigh Greens v Heidelberg Utd Kingston Heath

Sat 21 May 3:00PM
Richmond Eagles v Hume City Kevin Bartlett Reserve

Sat 21 May 3:00PM
Green Gully Cavaliers v Oakleigh Cannons Green Gully Reserve

Sun 22 May 3:00PM
St Albans Saints v Dandenong Thunder Churchill Reserve

Sun 22 May 3:00PM
Melbourne Knights v Northcote City Knights Stadium

Sun 22 May 3:00PM
South Melbourne v Springvale White Eagles John Cain Memorial

Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pt
South Melbourne	12	7	3	2	30	17		24
Oakleigh Cannons	12	7	2	3	30	19		23
Green Gully Cavaliers	13	6	4	3	28	18		22
Melbourne Knights	13	6	3	4	34	18		21
Hume City	13	6	3	4	32	21		21
Dandenong Thunder	13	6	2	5	28	23		20
Heidelberg Utd	11	6	2	3	23	19		20
Northcote City	12	5	3	4	23	21		18
Richmond	13	4	1	8	23	42		13
Springvale White Eagles	13	4	1	8	22	41		13
Bentleigh Greens	13	3	3	7	23	34		12
VTC Football	10	3	1	6	18	29		10
St Albans Saints	12	1	4	7	20	32		4

Green Gully Cavaliers 0
South Melbourne 2

Northcote City Oakleigh Cannons

Dandenong Thunder 2
Melbourne Knights 1

Springvale White Eagles 0
Bentleigh Greens 4

Hume City 1
St Albans Saints 1

Heidelberg Utd 3 Richmond 3

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